

**Summary Assessment Report for
Caistor Roman Project's
Trial Excavations within the Extramural Temple
enclosure at Caistor St Edmund, Norfolk.
August-September 2018**



Event No: ENF144877

Site centre point: TG 2407 0394

Report finalised: June 2019

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CRP Trial Excavations within the Extramural Temple enclosure at Caistor St Edmund in 2018

Location	Temple Field, Caistor St. Edmund, Norfolk.
Grid Reference	TG 2407 0394 (c. centre-point of study area)
Scheduled Monument No.	SMNF244, HA 1003954
Norfolk Historic Environment Record	NHER 9787
Historic England Section 2 Ref.	500195705
Pre-trenching Geophysical Survey	September 2017
Dates of Fieldwork	August 17 th - September 3 rd , 2018.
Norfolk Historic Environment Event No.	ENF144877

1.0 Project Background

This interim assessment report has been prepared as part of the Caistor Roman Project's agreed commitments, following successful application for trial excavations at Temple Field, Caistor St. Edmund, Norfolk (Historic England ref. 500/195/705 & site ref. SM/NF/244/A/1003954.) A final report will be submitted following the completed programme of post-excavation analysis. The final report will be suitable for archive and further dissemination and will include a range of commissioned professional reports.

The site, known as Temple Field (NHER 9787 at Grid ref. 2397 0392), lies c.700m to the north east of the walled Roman town of *Venta Icenorum* (Fig. 1). The field is currently under pasture and has an established use as a horse field. The remains of a 'Romano-Celtic' temple and an associated large rectilinear building have been recognised since the 1930s and various features have been identified as cropmarks and parchmarks (Fig. 2). In terms of its size (c. 3216 square feet), the temple is one of the largest Romano-Celtic temples known from Britain (Lewis 1966, 25). Furthermore, the temple sits within a large walled enclosure that seemingly possessed at least one monumental entrance on its western side. What is clear is that this site was deemed important enough to become the focus for a very large walled *temenos* with one, or possibly two opposing gateways, incorporating both a temple and a large ancillary building (measuring c. 35m by 15m). The alignment and position of the temple does not reflect that of the surrounding *temenos*, which may point to the presence of an earlier feature that informed the orientation of the temple.

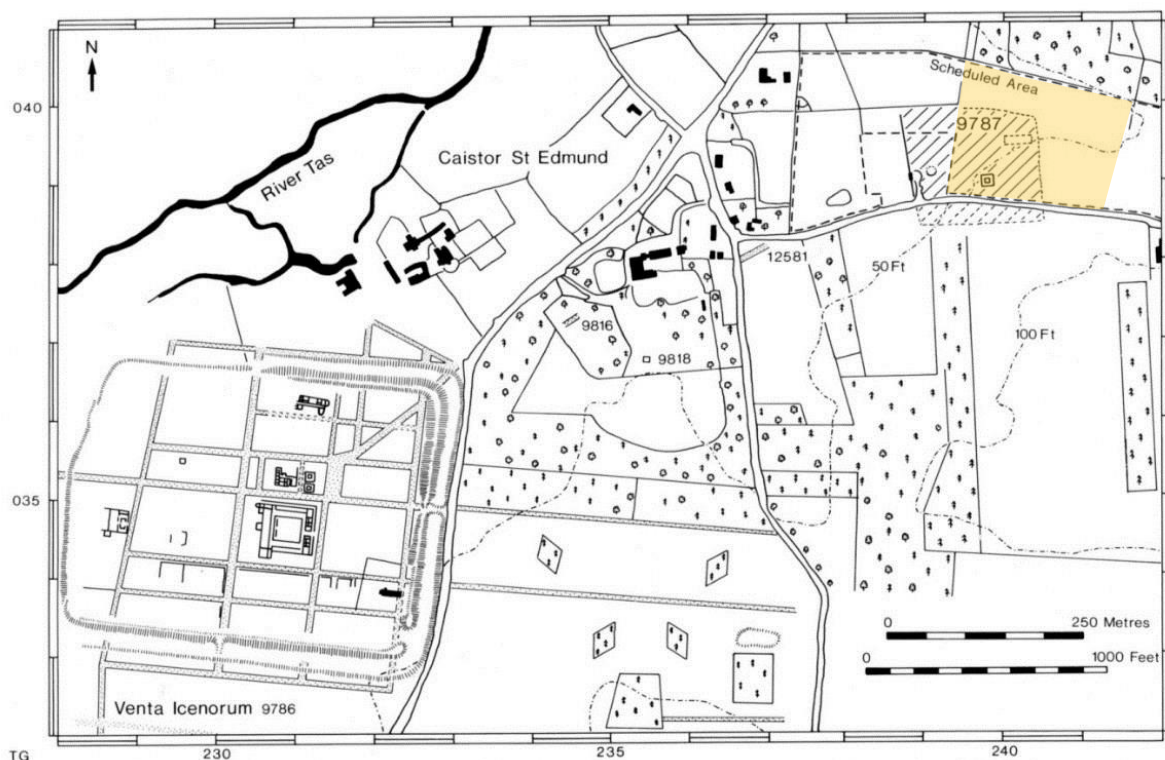


Fig. 1. Location of Temple Field shown in orange (part of NHER 9787) in relation to *Venta Icenorum* (from Gurney 1986)

2.0 Summary Historic and Archaeological Background

In the 1950s and 1980s, several small-scale excavations were undertaken for which known information was collated and published by Gurney (1986, 42-5). These can be summarised as follows:

- 1950 Foundations of a monumental west gate were revealed by R. R. Clarke and G. P. Larwood for the Norfolk Research Committee in 1950, continued by Group Captain G. M. Knocker and R. G. Hughes later in the same year on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments of the Ministry of Works;
- 1956 The *temenos* wall was traced by A. P. Baggs for the Norfolk Research Committee via a series of small trenches running north from the Gateway;
- 1957 The temple was investigated by Miss A. S. Mottram for the Norfolk Research Committee and conducted as a training exercise for senior pupils from local schools. The excavation established that the temple was of the most commonly encountered; square within a square style consisting of a central *cella* rising above an ambulatory. Lewis (1966) concluded that the building was likely to have been of a tower type with a tiled roof. He further states that the area within the *temenos* wall, approaching 2.6 ha, makes it one of the larger *temenoi* known in Britain.
- 1984 The *temenos* wall was investigated by D. Gurney at one of the points investigated by Baggs to establish the line of the wall and evaluate its construction and survival.
- 1984-5 D. Gurney investigated the possible line of the *temenos* wall in Friston Field (to the south of Caistor Lane) following a report by Mr C. Skinner, the tenant farmer. Excavation revealed what was probably the ploughed-out base of the wall.

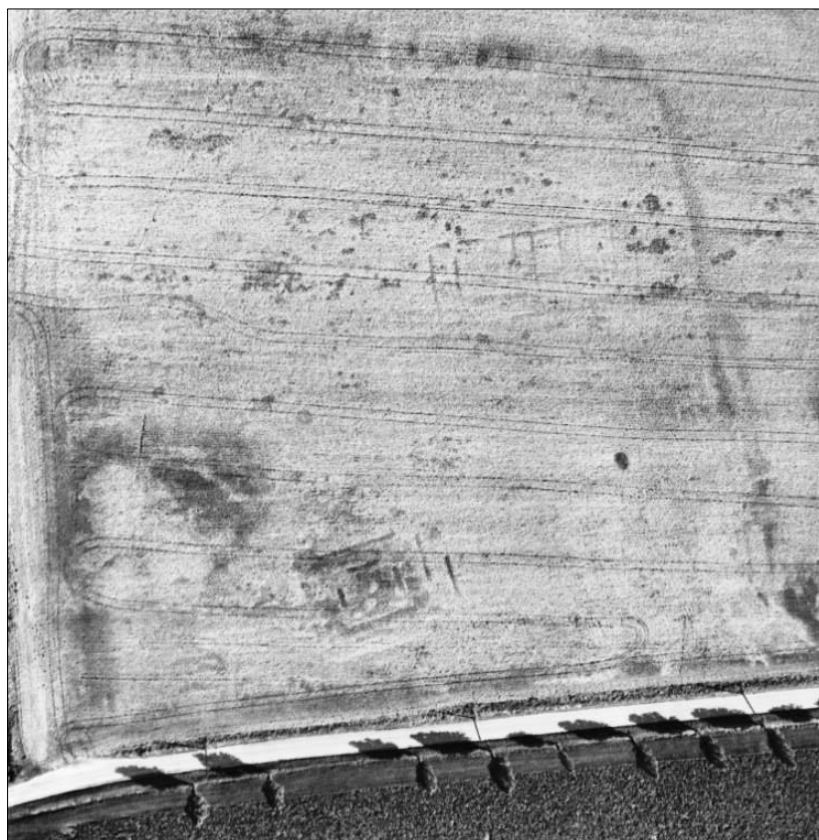


Fig. 2. Vertical aerial photograph of temple complex cropmarks
c. 1980. ©Derek Edwards

Within the finds recovered from Miss Mottram's excavation (NCM acc. No. 19.957), only one potentially stratified and dateable artefact was found. This was a Constantine I *Follis* SOL

INVICTO COMITI dating to AD 306-308 (Gurney 1986, 45). Even this item was deemed to be possibly intrusive, owing to it having been found in soft sand in the foundation trench of the robbed west wall of the ambulatory. Lewis places the extra mural temple within a date range of late 2nd to mid/late 4th, i.e. potentially later but probably no earlier than the two temples which lie within the nearby walled town. The latter temples were excavated by Donald Atkinson in 1929 (Atkinson 1930; Atkinson 1931).

Approximately 40m to the north-east of the temple building, and within the *temenos* wall, a further 'ancillary building' exists at TG 2402 0395 (Fig 3). Cropmarks and aerial photography indicate the building to be approximately 35m long by 15m wide (Fig 2). On the southern side, a corridor appears to run the full length of the building and this continues along the western side where it borders a large square room. In the centre of the building there are a number of smaller rooms, whilst at the east end, another larger room, possibly with internal divisions, may mirror the room at the western end. Prior to the CRP investigations there has been no physical evidence as to the purpose of the building, which has been loosely interpreted as a guest house, priest's or custodian's residence or even a bath house, although the latter was considered the least likely.



Fig. 3. Schematic overview of site created by D.Bescoby (2017), showing the *temenos*, position of the two gates, temple, ancillary building and ?yard area

Metal detection of the field, alongside various casual surface finds, has recovered a range of finds including Roman coins, brooches and pottery (see NHER 9707 for details of recorded events and finds). Field walking in May 1984 recovered 85.5 kg of building materials from an area of 600 m². The materials recovered suggest that the temple walls were built of flints in mortar, with a tiled roof of imbrices and tegulae, and that there was at least one floor composed of red brick tesserae. The high density of building materials was in sharp contrast to the amount of domestic occupation debris recovered. Only 34 fragments of pottery were recorded, with small numbers of oyster shells, iron nails and animal bones. The only small finds of note were part of a shale armlet and a fragment of flat tile with part of a letter 'M' in low relief stamped on it (NCM acc.no. 179.985).

Due to growing concerns over repeated instances of illegal metal detecting, Gregory (1991) oversaw organised detection in Temple Field and the adjacent fields. This exercise produced

164 coins of Iron Age and Roman date from Temple Field alone and, when added to earlier data, produced a total of 221 identifiable coins (Davies and Gregory 1991). A more recent CRP Research Project (Jackson 2017) involved the transcription of almost 8,000 individual coins from the Norfolk HER from *Venta* and the surrounding area, including data from this field. Although the number of coins retrieved from Temple field is relatively small, analysis of the data points to a peak in coin loss during Reece Period 4 (AD 69 – 96) that is not seen elsewhere in and around *Venta*. Furthermore, the very high peaks in coin loss witnessed from the other Caistor sites in Reece Period 17 (AD 330 – 348) is much less pronounced in the Temple Field. Whilst it has been suggested that this limited data might point to activity in this part of Caistor that pre-dates the establishment of the town (e.g. Creighton 2006, 142-5), this theory remains to be tested. The recovery of dateable artefacts from stratified contexts will potentially resolve this question.

Surgeon Commander F R Mann conducted excavations in the grounds of what is now the Caistor Hall Hotel during the 1930's. A recent re-evaluation of bronze working debris from these excavations has provided additional evidence in support of the theory that the area to the north east of the walled town was the focus of activity that pre-dates the foundation of the town. This assessment is based on evidence from two brooch types represented in this assemblage namely an unfinished forged Drahtfibel brooch (mid to late 1st Century), and a cast Colchester derivative Harlow brooch, (peak production circa AD 40 – 70 but running on in to later 1st Century) (Dr Natasha Harlow *pers comm*).

3.0 The Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey of Temple Field was undertaken in September 2017 by members of the Caistor Roman Project led by Dr Dave Bescoby who has been responsible for extensive survey work in and around the Roman town (Section 42 Licence Case No. SL00155544). The full results have been produced in a detailed and illustrated report for the CRP (Bescoby, D. 2017, Romano-Celtic Temple Site, Caistor St Edmund: A Geophysical Investigation).

In advance of the geophysical survey, a detailed study was conducted of the extensive aerial photographic record held within the Norfolk HER. This data was used to inform the nature and extent of the survey conducted in Temple Field. Reference was also made to digitised crop mark data available via the National Mapping Programme.

The principal aim of the study was to assess the survival of sub-surface features, appearing with clarity as cropmarks within earlier aerial images, taken when the area was still under plough. It was also hoped that a wider survey of the entire field would help to further contextualise the temple complex within its setting (Fig. 3). Both magnetometry and resistivity methods were used for the survey.

The main observations relating to the subsequent CRP trenching are summarised here (Fig.4):

Earth resistance measurements over the ancillary building provided a fairly detailed plan of its internal layout, comparable with that known from cropmark data. The survey also appeared to indicate the in-situ survival of sub-floor layers within rooms at the eastern end of the building. To the north of the building, both magnetic and resistivity surveys indicate an enhanced level of activity, possibly associated with further, more ephemeral, building structures.

To the east, both magnetic and resistivity survey results were suggested to indicate the existence of a substantial gateway in the *temenos* wall. The resistivity data suggested that elements of this structure are likely to have been robbed out. The line of the southern section of the *temenos* wall seems to change direction on slightly at this point. When the location of this eastern gateway is viewed in relation to the whole complex, it can be seen to sit opposite the monumental gateway to the west. A line drawn between the two opposing entrances passes a few metres to the north of the temple building. No traces of any eastern approach

road were evident outside the *temenos* wall, although faint traces of a narrow trackway were detected in the magnetic data leading from the eastern gateway towards the centre of the enclosed area.

To the north-east of the temple, a weak positive, linear magnetic response can be seen running northwards from the eastern edge of the temple building for c. 42 metres and is interpreted as an infilled ditch (Figs 3 and 4). The alignment of the ditch does not conform to that of the main elements of the temple complex (the temple building, ancillary building or *temenos* wall). Interestingly to the north-west, a second linear ditch type feature running perpendicular to the first was also detected, its eastern end running to the north of the ancillary building.

While caution is needed in interpreting this latter feature, as its alignment is similar to that of relic plough lines, it does appear to represent a broader infilled linear feature. Taken together, these two features may form the remnants of enclosing ditches which potentially relate to earlier (or indeed later) phases of activity on the site.



Fig. 4. CRP 2018 Trench locations in relation to geophysical survey data interpretation, as compiled by Dr D. Bescoby

4.0 Original 2018 Project Aims & Objectives

The investigation proposal agreed with Historic England (Jackson and Pinner 2018) involved the excavation of three trial trenches within the extramural temple enclosure. Previous knowledge of the site was summarised by Gurney (EAA30, 1986) and his advice was further sought in preparation for the work.

Additional permission was sought and obtained for a pre-excavation geophysical survey of the field by Dr. D. Bescoby (summarised above), augmented by a ground penetrating radar evaluation undertaken during the fieldwork phase by Dr. T. Dennis.

4.1 Methods and Trenches

The Caistor Roman Project excavation was led by Rhiane Keeley and Mike Pinner with support and professional oversight from Dr Will Bowden of Nottingham University and Giles Emery and Andy Barnett of Norvic Archaeology. The trench positions were set out by Dr D. Bescoby. The site work was undertaken by a daily team of between 35 to 40 CRP members with overall site participation of c.60 different members (including excavation teams, sieving teams, finds processing, logistical support and supervisory team).

The work was carried out over 18 continuous days, starting in late August 2018, with the support of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In addition to site visits by a range of supportive professionals, over 600 members of the public visited the excavations during the course of two open days.

Placements were provided for 6 students from the University of East Anglia, who took part in all aspects of the excavation and received support and tuition in fieldwork techniques from experienced volunteer members and archaeological professionals. CRP members have been part of an ongoing capacity training programme to undertake a large range of archaeological skills, which continued throughout the dig as part of CRP's five-year-plan.

In agreement with Historic England, a limited hand-auger survey was carried out by Dr David Bescoby to the north of the ancillary building to assess for sub-surface evidence for a possible watercourse that had been mentioned by the current tenant and was thought to have bearing on the siting of the known Romano-British structures on the field.



Plate 2. Day 2 excavation progress (TEM3 in foreground). Looking SE.

The 2018 excavations focused on clarifying the chronology and use of the complex by targeting the building, postulated eastern gateway and a probable ditch for an enclosure determined through magnetometry survey which had the potential to pre-date the construction of the building and/or temple. In particular, it was hoped to investigate whether the temple site pre-dates the formal layout of the town (now thought to date to the start of the 2nd century (Bowden 2013), as suggested by the collection of Iron Age coins from Temple Field and the number of Flavian coins from the site. In addition, there was an intention to investigate the longevity of the site, given that the road between the *intra-mural* temples of the Roman town and the *extra-mural* temple area was blocked by the construction of the city wall (thought to be in the later 3rd century). It was also hoped to clarify the nature of two key features of the temple site – namely the ancillary building and the postulated eastern

monumental gateway. With these aims in mind, the focus was on three areas each to be investigated by trial excavation trench (Fig.5).

The general overarching aim of all three trenches was to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological deposits or features encountered. The field has been subject to ploughing until relatively recently and this work also aimed to determine the depth of ploughsoil and the level of modern plough damage disturbance to surviving archaeological deposits/masonry to better inform future management strategies. The placement of each trench and any specific aims are described below in more detail.



Fig. 5. Overhead drone view of the trenches (image by Dr T.Dennis)
NB: The temenos, ancillary building and temple are visible as parchmarks.

4.2 Trench 1: TEM1

The substantial villa-like building in the north-east of the *temenos* has never been investigated through excavation until now. It has tentatively been identified as a possible priest's house, as referred to above, although there are no clear parallels for such a structure. Alternatively, it may be an additional temple complex, reminiscent of that from Poitiers (Horne and King 1980, 449). Although such a form of temple would be unique for Roman Britain, the nearby suggested temple at Stoke Holy Cross demonstrates the area's potential for architectural originality (Bowden 2011).

Trench 1 measured 8m by 5m and was located at the eastern end of the building, placed across the external southern wall at a point where it may share a relationship with the putative ?early enclosure ditch identified by magnetometry. The trench was also located within an area of the building postulated by Dr D.Bescoby's analysis of the magnetometry results to have potential for *in situ* floor surfaces. The trench aimed to reveal the external southern wall of the building and part of the interior of the large room lying behind it together with a portion of probable internal dividing wall running north.



Plate 3. TEM1: Excavation progress of complex deposits in TEM1. Looking S.

4.3 Trench 2: TEM2

Both aerial photographs and the 2017 geophysics suggest the existence of an entrance in the eastern wall of the *temenos* that broadly aligns with the western monumental gateway now lying under Old Church Close. This trench was placed to evaluate the presence or otherwise of a second monumental gateway into the temple precinct through the eastern wall of the *temenos*. Given that the western gateway is now buried beneath Old Church Close, investigation of any such gateway could allow us to date the construction of these unusual features and establish a relationship between the gateway and the *temenos* wall.

Trench 2 measured 5m by 3m and was placed approximately east to west across the southern side of the possible gateway at its junction with the line of the *temenos* wall.

4.4 Trench 3: TEM3

Aerial photographs and magnetometry survey suggest the presence of a ditch on an unsympathetic alignment with the orientation of the building and temple inside the *temenos*. This feature was suspected to have once formed part of an enclosure with the potential to pre-date the layout of the temple site. The linear feature was targeted with a 5m by 3m trench placed c. north-south across its expected alignment.

4.5 Trench 4: TEM4

In agreement with Historic England, an additional test-pit measuring 1m by 2m was hand excavated to investigate the nature of a large sub-surface feature visible on both cropmarks and the magnetometry survey. This appeared to take the form of a sub-rectangular yard surface occupying the centre of the temple complex postulated to relate in some way to an earlier sacred focus of the site. There are no signs of any pit type features being present within this area, which might have been expected if the cult object had been a tree or wooden pillar. Equally there is no sign of the shaft feature postulated by Creighton (2006, 144) on the basis of the aerial photograph evidence.

5.0 Assessment

The following sections present an assessment of the large volume of archaeological data collected during the programme of archaeological work and of the artefactual and material recovered. This assessment considers the potential of the dataset to address any specific research aims and sets out areas where further analysis work or research is required to meet those aims.

5.1 Factual Data

The provisional table below summarises the general material that forms the documentary archive generated by the fieldwork.

Current Factual Archive	Totals
Context Sheets	129
Drawn Plans	28
Drawn Sections	31
Monochrome Prints*	2
CRP Digital Record Images*	265
CRP Digital Working Images*	288
Norvic Archaeology Rec. Images*	251
Norvic Archaeology other images*	38
Norvic Archaeology Black & White images	36
Image register	1
Trench Context Index Folders	3
Context Register Sheets	4
Plan register sheets	3
Section register sheets	3
CAD Plan	1
Digital matrices	3
Post-ex Excel Spreadsheets **	2

*Pre-rationalised

**Not including various finds assemblage spreadsheets

5.2 The Historic Periods

Ten main historic periods have currently been identified within the artefactual assemblage:

Period	Name	Date Range
1	Prehistoric	<i>c. 10000 to 800 BC</i>
2	Bronze Age	<i>c. 2,300 to 800 BC</i>
3	Iron Age	<i>c. 800 BD to 43 AD</i>
4	Romano-British	<i>43 AD to 410 AD</i>
5	Middle Saxon	<i>Mid-7th to mid-9th AD</i>
6	Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman	<i>11th to 12th centuries</i>
7	Medieval	<i>12th to 15th centuries</i>
8	Post-medieval	<i>16th to 18th centuries</i>
9	Late Post-medieval	<i>19th centuries</i>
10	Modern	<i>C20th to present</i>

NB: Refinement of the finds analysis may produce additional periods or sub-periods.

6.0 Preliminary Results

The main archaeological features currently identified from data collected during the fieldwork are discussed briefly here, in order to assess the significance of the evidence recovered. No reliable phasing has yet been undertaken for all contexts and all interpretation remains provisional, to be superseded by further post-excavation analysis.

6.1 Trench 1: TEM1 (Figures 6 & 7)

The substantial 'villa-like' structure to the north of the temple was investigated by means of an 8m by 5m excavation trench orientated north to south, positioned across the southern external wall of the building and into what magnetometry results suggested to be a large room at the eastern end of the building (the western internal wall of which also fell within the excavation area). This trench was also intended to reveal the possible northern terminus of a ditch thought to form part of an enclosure with that investigated in TEM3 (although no trace of the ditch was encountered in TEM1 and it may in fact terminate just short of the building).

The ploughsoil here (Master Context:1013) measured c.0.3m deep and lay above a subsoil of up to 0.2m thickness which contained a frequent scatter of Roman brick/tile, flint building waste and a moderate quantity of pottery (MR:1014).

Masonry

The southern outer wall of the building (Context 1015) was found to be c.0.6m wide and made up of hard mortared flint with some large tiles inserted as a levelling course. The highest level of preserved masonry was encountered at c.0.35m below the modern land surface (southern external wall) with demolished internal walls at c.0.4 to 0.6m below the modern land surface. Foundations were revealed, by a Ground Penetrating Radar survey of the building, to exist to a relatively consistent depth of c.2m,



Plate 4. TEM1: East end of excavated exterior wall 1015.
(Looking South) [Scales 1x1m & 1x0.3m]

suggesting that the building may have originally supported a second storey. The recovery of several wedge-shaped ceramic column bases, discovered ex situ, may well suggest a facade or internal decoration. The building had been severely robbed, possibly in two or three stages, and it was particularly noticeable that attempts had been made to remove significant large ceramic tiles from the walls.

Rather than representing one large space, this area was subdivided into three separate spaces by severely robbed out masonry walling (1036). These footings were just as substantial in width and form as the external wall, although they made use of a lower bedding material of Roman concrete. As with the external wall, the robbing activity appears to have some focus around the removal of square tiles. Notably some of the tile used in its construction appears to have been reused and was in a fragmentary state prior to its use as wall fabric.

Flooring

Internally, an east to west aligned room had been floored with a monochrome tessellated pavement of ceramic material (of which over 2000 individual tesserae were uncovered) much of which remained in situ (1025). The tessellated floor lay at c.0.5m below the modern ground surface and has escaped the depths of post-medieval and modern plough activity. In character these tesserae are similar to those found as stray finds within the walled area of the town and within the west range of Building II, excavated by Atkinson in 1929 (Atkinson 1931).

A zone of clay rich material close to the wall and overlaying the floor (1031) could be residue material derived from internal clay walling or similar. The floor was covered in a layer of fragmentary wall plaster mixed with soil (1026) which would appear to have fallen from the walls at some stage after the building's desertion. Of the fragmentary pieces, several retained polychrome decorative pigmentation in a wide range of colours, which includes part of a bird motif.

The tessellated floor was laid on a thick bed of opus signinum (1037), overlaying a foundation layer of tightly packed large flint cobbles (1075) set into the lower trample/subsoil horizon. Only a sample area of the tessellated floor was exposed by excavation, which can be estimated to cover c. 9 to 10m² within the limits of trench. The floor appeared to be relatively well-worn, with occasional areas of damaged/broken tiles. The rows were laid across the room on the same alignment as the enclosing walls, with c.1000 individual tiles laid per 1m².

Although no tessellated surfaces were present within the exposed areas for the adjacent rooms, the same cobbled make-up layers survived, along with minor traces of the opus signinum. This suggests that the floors here were robbed of their concrete layer for use as a building material.



Plate 5. TEM1: Tessellated floor (1035) during excavation. (looking NE)

Hearth/Oven

In the north easterly corner of the trench, some evidence of possible industrial activity was present which appeared to suggest a later phase of activity within the building. This took the form of a probable clay lined hearth or oven (1025) which appears to have been created following the removal of the opus signinum floor material here. This feature was only partly exposed within the corner of the excavation trench and had suffered disturbance from later stone robbing activity. Its ashy infill (1019) contained environmental evidence consistent with

combustion in the form of wood charcoal but only a single cereal grain was recovered along with a few fragments of hazel shell. Pottery sherds collected from the ashy infill have been spot dated to the 3rd to possibly 4th century AD.

Robbing activity

Evidence for a dump of tile fragments adjacent to the external wall of the building was present as a tile rich layer (1041). Most tile was fragmentary, suggesting that this represents a dump of unwanted material following selective sorting. A small number of box flue-tile fragments were present indicative of a probable heating system somewhere within the building.

Up to three phases of robbing were noted. The first episode appears to be an initial strip of the building which may have included the removal of flooring surfaces from two the rooms, perhaps contemporary with the sorting of tile materials outside the southern external wall. A spread of flint rich rubble (1016) across the area only occurred following the collapse of wall plaster directly onto the remaining floor surface and a slight build-up of soil consistent with abandonment of the structure. The final major phase of robbing made use of robber trenching to more fully expose the walls and may have coincided with the removal of wall fabric to footing level, including the near total robbing of tile coursing used as levelling layers with the external wall.



Plate 6. TEM1: Post-investigation record shot. (Looking North)
[Scales 3x2m, 1x1m, 1x0.5m & 1x0.2m]

Dating the various phases of activity in TEM1

Dating the construction of the building and various episodes of activity is problematic, given the lack of well-sealed pottery contemporary with the construction and subsequent occupation of the building, combined with the prevalence of residual material redeposited within deposits associated with quarrying out of the floors and masonry. However, current analysis of the pottery and coinage assemblages in relation to the stratigraphic sequence is encouraging and several provisional conclusions can be made.

- Small quantities of residual pottery recovered from the lower subsoil, which pre-date the construction of the building, along with a subsoil build-up which appears to be

contemporary to the construction and occupation of the building provides a likely mid-2nd century AD date range.

- Residual pottery and coinage collected from the initial accumulation of material sealing the tessellated floor provides a broad 3rd century AD date range. Pottery collected from the extensive spread of flint rubble (1016) representing a quarrying episode that followed the abandonment provides a possible date range of mid to late 3rd century AD, although a single coin dating to 330-335AD may provide a terminus post quem for the abandonment phase (assuming this find is not intrusive from later robber trench disturbance). Interestingly, initial coin analysis of the coin losses recorded from the overall field in 1985 (Gregory 1991) appear to show a bias to the period AD296-330 (Ian Jackson – forthcoming), which may coincide with the final phase of the building occupation and a possible later phase of activity within the temple complex.
- The tile dump on the southern side of the building is stratigraphically contemporary with this phase of activity. The clay lined hearth or oven hearth or oven (1025), which appears to follow some initial quarrying of the flooring materials and possibly other parts of the building, appears to date to this period of decline and deconstruction.
- A final phase of more thorough quarrying out of the wall materials post-dates the hearth (which was partly truncated by robbing activity). Residual pottery from the fills of the robber trenching includes pottery with a probable 4th century date.



Plate 7. TEM1: Post-investigation record shot. (Looking South)
[Scales 2x2m, 2x1m, 1x0.5m & 2x0.2m]

6.2 Trench 2: TEM2 (Figure 8)

The possibility of identifying the remains of an eastern entrance to the temple precinct was tested with a 5m by 3m evaluation trench intended to catch the northern end of the gate at its junction with the *temenos* wall. This trench revealed three main phases of activity below the ploughsoil and subsoil. Significant post-medieval plough scarring here reached depths of c.0.3m at the interface of the cover soils with archaeological horizons.

Primary metallised surfaces

The earliest archaeological deposits comprised of a complex sequence of metallising for hard standing or a trackway. What is most significant about this metallising is that it was established here prior to the construction of the *temenos*, perhaps lending weight to the idea of an early temple site with a later phase of aggrandisement.

The primary metallised surface was established directly upon the clean natural clay-sand geology. This was followed by a sequence of three relatively sterile metallising layers interleaved with thin trample horizons, the latest of which included a thin layer of redeposited natural sand and gravel with moderate pieces of Roman tile. Occasional tile/brick pieces and a few sherds of pottery of 2nd to 4th century range were collected from within this sequence. Notably, two pieces of painted wall plaster with red pigmentation were also collected from mid-way within this sequence.

Evidence for masonry associated with a temenos wall and eastern gateway

Evidence for Roman wall footings was relatively ephemeral, and the level of solid masonry robbing was total. Directly above the metallising was the incomplete bedding scar for the *temenos*/gateway masonry, formed from a hard pebble rich 'concreted mortar' (2031) up to 120mm thick below a thinner levelling skim of sandy-mortar (2025). Only traces of the eastern edge of the footing fabric remained as an off-white chalky-gritty-mortar (2010) which survived to thickness of just a few centimetres. Two patches of reused opus signinum were noted within the fabric.

The western monumental gateway partially excavated in 1950 by Clarke and Larwood measured 11m by 3m with solid footings of c. 1.5m deep. No such masonry or massive foundations consistent with the presence of a monumental gateway were uncovered by TEM2. The bedding traces that did survive limit the former walling to a maximum width of c.2m, although the wall/gateway could be as narrow as 1.5m.



Plate 8. TEM2: Masonry scar (2005/2010) and metallising deposits during excavation (looking West)

The c. 0.75m wide *temenos* wall was investigated in 1956 on the western side of the complex, where gravel spreads were recorded alongside the wall that were interpreted as a metallised trackway. Tile rich layers of metallising and possible rutting on the outside of the wall in TEM2 appear to demonstrate a high degree of wear and upkeep, with coinage and pottery suggesting a hiatus of activity here, involving the dumping of tile rich material here in the early to mid-4th century AD, coinciding with the use of large quantities of roof tile as surface consolidation. This high quantity of Roman tile and brick may be localised destruction residue from a nearby structure, possibly hinting at the location of a porch or covered gateway, although material may have been sourced from other buildings and brought to this specific location as consolidation material. Both ceramic and stone tesserae were present as loose finds within these upper layers. Within this sequence, possible evidence for votive activity

can be mooted by the presence of four coins all with a date range of 330—335 AD; one of which may have been deliberately sealed below a small cluster of oyster shells.

Timber post settings

A linear arrangement of four or five posthole settings post-dated the complete robbing of wall masonry here, suggestive of a later post-built structure of uncertain date ([2012], [2014], [2016], [2018] & [2023]).

6.3 Trench 3: TEM3 (Figure 9)

A 5m x 3m trench running north to south, in an area less than 10m north of the ancillary building, was used to test the possible presence of a ditch lying outside the *temenos* wall. The alignment of the ditch, as revealed by the preliminary geophysical survey, does not conform to that of the main elements of the temple complex (the temple building, ancillary building or *temenos* wall). This trench was also located close to the base of the dry valley, where a modern subsurface drainage cut is known to have relieved occasional waterlogged ground.

This trench revealed two main phases of human activity sealed by the ploughsoil, with clear post-medieval ploughscars reaching depth of up to 0.4m.

Timber structure

The colluvial based subsoil at this depth measured c.0.2m thick and sealed discrete features of suspected post-Roman date. These took the form of two post-settings, which appear to have begun as post-pits before being modified into post pads formed from densely compacted Roman roof tile and soil ([3020]/3014] & [3028]/3013]). A further lens of tile debris caught by the western baulk is also likely to be a third post-pad (3012) and a smaller possible posthole may be associated with the larger setting [3031].



Plate 9. TEM3: CBM packed Post-pad [3013] set above Post-pit [3018] (looking S) [1x0.5m Scale]

Although the posthole fills contain fair quantities of residual Roman pottery with a spot date of the 3rd to 4th century AD, they post-date a lower subsoil of 4th century date (3007=3008) from which pottery and three coins of early to mid-4th century date were collected. Within the lower subsoil build-up was a discrete patch of clay (3009) of uncertain function. Stratigraphically, the potential exists for these post-settings to be of late Roman or even early post-Roman date. Recent excavation of an Early to Middle Saxon sunken featured building (SFB) at Dunston Field and Caistor Old Hall (Bowden & CRP *in prep.*) demonstrated that scavenged and residual Roman material dominated the finds assemblage from these features and another possible SFB at Caistor Hotel (Emery 2007; HER 49012) recovered only Roman material.

Roman enclosure ditches

Just south of the position of the post-settings, sealed by 4th century lower subsoil build up, was the ditch ([3026]) targeted through magnetometry survey. It proved to be relatively substantial with steeply sloping sides and a shallower V-shaped ditch/gully ([3030]) running parallel with it. The main ditch measured 1.1m deep, with an estimated width of c.3.5m. Interestingly, the expectation for an enclosure ditch that may pre-date the ancillary building and formal layout of the *temenos* has been overturned. The primary fill contained large

quantities of Roman building rubble in the form of mortar lumps, large masonry tile pieces and flint and roof tile fragments very similar to the material from which the adjacent ancillary building was constructed. This ditch can now be interpreted as a relatively short-lived boundary, the bank of which (assumed to be on the internal side) would have created a decently sized earthwork. The main fills of the ditch contained pottery concurrent with a middle 3rd century or later infilling event, followed by an upper fill which received pottery sherds of 3rd and 4th century date.

This ditch appears to form part of a large enclosure with a second ditch, containing the ancillary building in its north-eastern corner. The enclosure shows no respect for the *temenos* orientation and may date to the later phase of the ancillary building's occupation in the 3rd century, perhaps representing a relatively short-lived change in use of the overall temple site before the quarrying out of the ancillary building.



Plate 10. TEM3: Roman Ditches [3026] & [3030] (looking W)
[Scales 2x2m, 1x1m, 1x0.5m & 1x0.3m]

6.4 Trench 4: TEM4

This 1m by 2m hand excavated test-pit was placed with the area of a possible large yard surface just to the north-west of the temple and postulated to represent some form of early sacred focus of the site. Below the ploughsoil and subsoil, the test-pit revealed a sterile aeolian sand formation, auger tested to depths exceeding 1.5m. The area has been noted as the source for good sand by the current land-owner and the signature present as parchmarks on aerial photographs and through magnetometry can now be positively identified as a geological feature.

6.5 Geoarchaeology Survey of the Dry Valley

A hand augured geoarchaeological survey was carried out by Dr David Bescoby, at 15m intervals across the dry valley just north of the *temenos* enclosure and TEM3. A detailed report has been submitted to the CRP for inclusion in the final overall excavation report. This work was carried out to test the assumption that some form of silted up channel may have flowed here in antiquity, contemporary to Iron Age/Romano-British use of the site. This assumption seemed relatively sound given the magnetometry data, assessment of the current landscape and interpretation of Lidar data. The presence of any such channel had

the potential to shape our interpretation of the former ritual landscape associated with this possible votive site.

In summary, no sedimentary evidence of subsurface Holocene alluvial deposition was identified that would have indicated the continued presence of a wet channel into the post-glacial period. Instead, the emerging picture is one of a dry valley bottom and developing stable land surface, which in time became inundated by colluvial material from the surrounding slopes. Slope erosion may have been accelerated due to localised cultivation activity. No modern drainage ditch was found at the expected location as known to be here from a personal account of the landowner, although a search of historical maps and aerial photography data may assist in pinning the route of this narrow-infilled channel.

7.0 Artefactual Assessment

The finds material from the site is discussed in separate assessment summaries below, supported by basic quantitative information where required. Where currently possible, the significance of each assemblage is assessed below both in relation to the site itself and any wider importance. All reference to context spot dates is provisional and subject to revision following more detailed stratigraphic analysis. Details of any appropriate further analysis required to meet the aims of the project are also presented in this section.

The table below summarises the finds that form the artefactual assemblage recovered from the mitigation work.

Finds Assemblage			
Type	Quantity	Weight (kg)	No. of Contexts
Animal bone	2055	5931	65
Ceramic Building Material (Romano-British)	25,036	1191.107	94
Clay tobacco pipe	32	0.059	18
Coal/Coke/Charcoal	87	<0.087	30
Coinage	27	0.045	22
Fe nails	561	2.693	60
Fe objects (currently not Small Finds)	11	0.025	9
Flint - burnt	80	2.287	29
Flint - worked	113	-	34
Glass	86	0.135	34
Metal Working Debris	35	0.454	17
Pottery – Prehistoric	34	0.169	10
Pottery – Romano-British	2267	12.748	70
Pottery- Post-Roman	68	0.334	24
Small finds (Various material types not inc. coins)	42	0.109	23
Shell - oyster	2256	15.095	78
Shell – cockle/mussel/winkle	9	0.017	7
Shell – land snail	19	<0.030	8
Tesserae – large ceramic type	2341	12.730	58
Tesserae – small mosaic type - chalk	129	0.325	34
Tesserae – small mosaic type – ceramic	23	0.093	16
Tesserae – small mosaic type – other stone	58	0.205	14
Wall plaster (Roman)	204	-	9

7.1 Animal Bone

A total of 2,055 individual pieces of animal bone were collected from across all four trenches, with a combined total weight of 5931g. The bone was collected by both hand excavation and sieving of individual contexts. Much of the assemblage is highly fragmentary, with an overall mean weight per item of just 3g. TEM1 produced 739 pieces (mean weight c.2.6g); TEM2 189 pieces (mean weight c. 5.8g), TEM3 1107 pieces (mean weight c. 2.6g) and TEM4 20 pieces (mean weight c. 1.75g).

The bone has been subject to an initial analysis by CRP members, making use of recent knowledge gained from training sessions with experienced archaeological osteologist Paul Clarkson. Guidelines provided follow a methodology based on Albarella & Davis (1994). The work was overseen and data compiled by CRP members Lynda Bradley and Roger Burnett.

The bone has been quantified by context and where possible the bone element and taxa identified. Each trench has a large number of small fragments which currently remain unidentifiable. A provisional catalogue of the bone by context and trench has been prepared, final versions of which will be included in the final analysis report.

Trench	Cattle	Large Animal	Horse	Horse /Cattle	Pig	Medium Animal	Sheep or Goat	Rabbit /Small animal	Small Animal	Bird	Very Small Animal	Undefined Fragments	Wt (g)
TEM1	12	2			48	1	116	17		12		531	1900
TEM2	3	14	5	1	5	3	37		78	3		40	1093
TEM3	33	4			35	2	122	84	14	71	2	740	2903
TEM4							1		6			13	35

Initial quantification by species

Initial observations

Only a very small number of complete bones were found. The main large mammal species currently identified include horse cattle, pig and sheep/goat. Many of the bones including the fragments show clear signs of butchery, particularly chop marks and some cut marks.

Bones of small mammals (some of which have been identified as Rabbit, possibly including modern intrusive material) were also recorded. The smallest animal bones were of the size compatible with rodent. The bird bones were considered to be similar in size to those seen in Galliformes such as domestic hens. Some of this bird bone is from deposits of Roman date, the majority of which was collected from lower subsoils and post-holes/pads excavated within TEM3.

The majority of bone fragments were recovered as redeposited residual finds of uncertain date within layers, with a smaller volume collected as residual waste within discrete features and deposits of probable Roman date; which includes postholes, pads, ditch fills and a possible pit. Some of the material collected from lower subsoils could also be of Roman date, although the potential for earlier residual material must be considered.

Trench (no. pieces)	Context Type	c. %
TEM1 (x739)	Upper soils	41%
	Robber trench fills	10%
	Rubble/tile rich spreads	7%
	Wall plaster rich layer	10%
	Lower subsoils	21%
	Ashy fill of ?oven [1025]	5%
	Fill of ?linear feature [1076]	6%
TEM2 (x189)	Upper soils	21%
	Tile rich layers	66%
	Posthole fills	2%
	Metalling layers	11%

TEM3 (x1107)	Upper soils	17%
	Lower subsoil	40%
	Posthole/pad fills	18%
	Ditch fills	21%
	?Pit-fill	4%
TEM4 (x20)	Ploughsoil/subsoils	100%

Animal bone distribution by context type

Further analysis and recommendations for further work

Further analysis work is currently required on the physical assemblage, in close consultation with faunal remains specialists, to review and refine the current identification of the bone.

A detailed stratigraphic analysis of the distribution of the animal bone by context will be made following final phasing of the archaeological features and deposits within all four trenches.

A detailed analysis report of the animal bone assemblage will be produced by CRP members in consultation with specialist contributors. This will include further tables and catalogues of the assemblage by context and species, with any details of disease, age range, morphology, butchery, scavenger damage etc. also recorded. Within the limitations of the datable data set this will include a discussion of the evidence for any distinct phases of animal husbandry, consumption, butchery, disposal etc. at the site.

The work will also include a discussion of the Roman and any pre- or post-Roman evidence. The assemblage will also be considered in a wider context in comparison to other past and recently collected assemblages at the Roman town.

A selection of animal bone elements may be photographed to provide general illustrative material for the overall report and as reference material for the CRP.

7.2 Burnt Flint

A total of 80 pieces of burnt flint with a total weight of 2288g were collected from across the four trenches. The burnt flint ranged from heavily calcined and fire-cracked to scorched, heat reddened and granulated. No distinct concentrations of burnt flint were recorded and the material is mainly residual within soil layers. The material represents minor evidence of localised hearth or bonfire activity of uncertain date.

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Linda Richmond and a finalised version incorporating further stratigraphic analysis will be presented within the final report.

7.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

Methodology

A total of 25,036 pieces of CBM were recorded with a combined weight of 1191.107 kg. The CBM was collected from 94 contexts, all appearing to be from the Romano-British period. A large amount of the material was sorted, weighed and identified on site so that it could then be returned to the same source trenches. On-site processing was accomplished by a team overseen by CRP members experienced in CBM processing and identification.

All marked or shaped pieces were retained, and all pieces were counted, weighed, measured and sorted into a previously established CRP type-series for form and fabric (established in

consultation with Alice Lyons). Any examples that were too damaged for identification were categorised as undiagnostic. Once the material was recorded it was stored separately according to Trench for reburial during backfilling. The CBM was placed within each respective trench as a single dump of material wrapped within a geo-textile fabric.

The remaining material that was still to be catalogued was taken to the project's storage barn and was processed and catalogued by CRP members, overseen by the designated CBM team of John Davies and Keith Bowen.

Summary Observations

Fragments of brick, floor tile and bonding tile make up the majority of the CBM assemblage and are mainly recorded as undiagnostic because of the poor condition of the material. There are also lesser quantities of Imbrex, Tegula, flue tile, column wedges, clutch and crested roof tiles.

Fragmented quantities of both roof Imbrex and Tegula were not found in the quantities expected from TEM1, on the site of the 'Priest's House, indicating their selection for removal and reuse elsewhere. It was also noted that some of the floor tesserae were clearly made from roof tile that had been cut or broken to the required size and shape (the tesserae are quantified and described in a separate analysis report).



Plate 11. On-site CBM processing.

Much of the CBM from soil horizons was abraded and poor or very poor condition and this may be due to historic ploughing of the site.

Some evidence of burnt pieces was present but rare. A few retained pieces have markings on them and following full recording will be added to the CBM reference collection.

Seventeen pieces of flue tile from heating systems were collected, 14 pieces from TEM1 and 3 pieces from TEM3.

Seventeen pieces of column wedges were collected, all from TEM1. Of these 8 were from a clay rich context (1031); a spread of material directly overlying the tessellated floor. One piece was collected from the lower subsoil (1046) which may pre-date the construction of the building and another piece was from a trampled residue of (1072) sealed by the construction of one of the floors. This appears to indicate that while much of the pieces have been used with the fabric of the demolished building some pieces of the column debris maybe recycled from an earlier building phase or structure.

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and detailed catalogue have been prepared by CRP members J A Davies and K W Bowen. Further tables to assist in analysis of the data showing fabric and forms by trench and context will be produced and presented within the final report. Following detailed stratigraphic analysis a further discussion on the significance and date of the assemblage by context will be produced and also a discussion in terms of the assemblages contribution to further interpretation of the buildings on site. The assemblage will also be considered in a wider context in comparison to other past and recently excavated assemblages at the Roman town in consultation with Dr Will Bowden and regional Roman-British specialists, to include Alice Lyons.

A small number of pieces have been selected for possible illustration (photo/drawing), they include two bonding tiles with possible graffiti, a roof tile with a signature mark and a selection of column wedges.



Plate 12. TEM1: Tile dump (1041) from which 1,203 CBM fragments were collected (looking W) [Scales 2x2m + 1x0.5m]

7.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

A total of 32 small fragments of clay tobacco pipe with a broad date range of 17th to 19th century were collected across all four trenches, with a total weight of 59.8 grams. Aside from one small fragment of bowl all were stem pieces. No markings were found on any of the pieces, and several were very abraded. The pieces were largely collected from the upper cultivated soils.

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Linda Richmond and a finalised version will be presented within the final report.

7.5 Coal, Coke and Charcoal pieces

A total of 49 small pieces of charcoal were collected (<24g), 20 pieces of coal (<31g) and 18 pieces of coke (<32g); all recovered from a total of 30 separate contexts. These small pieces were mainly retrieved during the sieving process on site, which maximised recovery of such small pieces.

Most of this fuel waste was collected from the subsoil layers of the trenches and can be discarded as minute residual material of post-medieval to modern date and provenance. No significant concentrations of material were found within archaeologically significant deposits or features and the material found in lower deposits can be considered as intrusive from root or animal burrowing and/or low-level residual material from localised activity.

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Barbara Marriage and a finalised version will be presented within the final report.

7.6 Coinage

Analysis by CRP coin specialist Ian Jackson

Introduction

A total of 27 coins were collected during the course of the excavation (with the possible addition of a fragment of coin), from a total of 22 separate contexts. Each has been issued with a unique Small Finds number. By trench this amounts to; 12 coins from TEM1, 10 from TEM2 and 5 from TEM3.

With a small number of notable exceptions, the coins are in poor condition and in nine cases are unidentifiable. For those from ploughsoils, this is perhaps at least in part due to the nature of the agricultural products applied to the field when it was under plough in the past (Chris Skinner *pers comm*).



Plate 13. Silver Iron Age unit
 (SF18058)

The assemblage is primarily of copper-alloy but also includes one silver Iron Age unit (SF18058). The coinage has been analysed by CRP member and numismatist Ian Jackson with consultation from Andy Barnett (professional archaeological numismatist). An extract from the provisional report follows:

TEM1

All but one of the coins from TEM1 are classified as Roman, the other is a silver Iron Age horse pattern unit produced between the late 1st-century BC to 43 AD (SF18058 from context (1034)). The field has produced Iron Age coins in the past, for example eight were recovered during the 1985 metal detecting survey overseen by the late Tony Gregory. So, whilst not unexpected, this was nevertheless an exciting find for the project.

Five of the remaining coins are classified as Roman but have no discernible features or legends on either face. Context (1007) produced a badly worn debased silver denarius, SF 18025, with no discernible features on either face. Two 3rd Century radiates were recovered. SF 18056 from context (1016) is an illegible copy but the other is a radiate of Tetricus II with the Obverse C P I V [E S V T E T R I C V S C A E S] AD 273 -274. Two 4th Century coins were recovered in the shape of a GLORIA EXERCITVS two soldiers and one standard AD 335 - 341 from context (1004), SF 18004 and a copy of a commemorative VRBS ROMA wolf and twins AD 330 -341 from context (1022), SF 18057.

TEM2

TEM2 produced a total of 10 Roman coins, two of which were unidentifiable. The earliest coin recovered was a radiate of Tetricus 1 with the SALVS AVG Reverse dated to AD 273 - 274 from context (2001), SF 18017. This was closely followed, in date terms, by a very fine radiate from the reign of Carausius with the Obverse legend IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG and the Reverse legend [TEMPO] RVM FELI AD 286 - 293 from context (2000), SF 18015. A third radiate was in poor condition and not precisely dateable.

The trench produced five 4th Century coins, including three VRBS ROMA commemorative wolf and twins. A copy from context (2007), SF 18029 AD 330 - 341; a second from (2007) minted in Trier SF 18035 AD 330 - 335 and one from context (2009) SF 18036 AD 330 - 335 that appeared to have been placed within a structured deposit formed from a tight cluster of oyster shells (RF2009) with the coin placed directly underneath. The remaining two fourth century coins were a GLORIA EXERCITVS two soldiers and one standard AD 335 - 337 from context (2003), SF 18022 and one GLORIA EXERCITVS two soldiers and two standards AD 330 - 335 from context (2008) SF 18044. With the exceptions of the two radiates identified in detail, the coins from trench 2 were also in generally poor condition.

TEM3

TEM3 3 produced five Roman coins, plus one possible fragmentary coin which is currently unidentifiable. The earliest coin recovered from this trench was a very fine coin of Constantine the Great with the SOLI INVICTO COMITI Reverse, minted in Trier and dated from AD 310 – 313; SF 18050 (see plate 14). This coin came from context (3006). Of particular interest are the two, possibly three votive issues from the same period bearing the Reverse legend VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP (or variations thereof). The depiction on the Reverse of the most readable of these coins features two facing Victories holding a shield between them above an altar with a star in the centre. The shield bears the letters VOT PR in two rows, context (3008) SF 18051. Context (3008) also produced a similar coin albeit exhibiting a greater degree of wear, SF 18052. SF 18054 from context (3004) is again well worn but appears to be of the same type. These coins date from AD 318 - 320. The latest coin from trench 3 is a GLORIA EXERCITVS two soldiers and one standard AD 335- 341 from context (3008) SF 18044.



Plate 14. (SF18050)

Provisional discussion

Whilst the coins await finalised identification, it is interesting at this stage to compare our findings with the data produced by the coins previously recorded from the scheduled area (NHER 9787). Up to 1984, the source is EAA 30 A Romano-Celtic Temple Site at Caistor St. Edmund by David Gurney. Post 1984, the source is Davies and Gregory's Coins from a Civitas 1991.

The 1957 Mottram excavation of the temple produced six coins including two 1st Century examples in the form of an As of Domitian AD 87 and an illegible As of Vespasian, Titus or Domitian AD 69 - 96. Contemporary with coins among our finds was an antoninianus of Carausius LVCIS REDVX AD 287 - 293 and a Constantine I SOL INVICTO COMITI AD 306 - 318.

Prior to 1984, a total of 101 coins had been recovered and officially recorded from the Scheduled Area and Old Church Close, including the six from the Mottram excavation. Looking at the pattern of coin loss produced by this data indicates that the area is distinct from all other areas in and around the town for the following reasons:

1. This area shows a significant peak in coin loss during Reece Period IV AD 69 - 96. This component made up 19.6% of all coins recovered up to 1984. Our excavation was notable for an absence of coins dating to this period, contrary, therefore, to what we might have expected, based on previous finds.

Looking at the larger dataset represented in Davies and Gregory's Coins From A Civitas 1991, 221 coins are listed as originating from "Venta - temple ", (it is assumed that this dataset included the 101 coins referred to above). 59 of 221 (22.67%) are dated to Reece Period IV.

2. Late coins from the Temple scheduled area occur much less frequently than elsewhere in and around the town. Post 330 AD the comparative percentages are:

Venta - temple	22.2%
Venta - south	47.9%
Venta - interior	48.2%
Venta - the park	55.0%
Venta - west	79.0%

Summary observations

- We recovered no very early Roman coins unlike earlier field work in Temple Field.
- Within the areas excavated we recovered no coins post-dating AD 350.
- Could the VRBS ROMA mid-4th century coin within the structured deposit in Trench 2 coincide with a local event? such as the demolition of the *temenos* wall
- The caveat to all of the above points is that the dataset from the most recent excavation is relatively very small and it would be unwise to draw definitive conclusions regarding activity at the site from the coin finds alone.

Recommendations for further work

The draft report and detailed catalogue prepared by CRP member Ian Jackson will be finalised following a reappraisal of each individual coin and consultancy with external specialists and as wide a range of further reference material as required. Identification may also be assisted by X-ray of the assemblage, particularly for those coins in poorer states of preservation.

Alongside the pottery assemblage, the coin dating will make a significant contribution to dating the stratigraphy of the site and any interpretation and discussion of past activity within the temple complex, which has the potential to include evidence for votive activity.

Following more detailed stratigraphic analysis, a further discussion on the significance and date of the coin assemblage will be produced and also a discussion in terms of the assemblages contribution to further interpretation of Romano-British activity associated with the temple complex.

The assemblage will also be considered in a wider context in comparison to other past and recently collected assemblages at the Roman town, with trends in coin losses discussed in further detail.

A selection of coins will be photographed to provide a source of illustrative material for the final report.

7.7 Ferrous Objects (non-small found)

A total of 572 ferrous objects/fragments were collected from across all four trenches which have not been recorded as small finds. Of these, 561 have been classified as iron nails and the remaining 11 as objects.

The objects comprise of a fragment of a possible hook and an L-shaped plate from TEM1; an L-shaped object, three metal bar fragments and a ?blade fragment from TEM2; a ?shoe heel protector, a metal block and a ?blade fragment from TEM4.

Additional hobnails were identified from context (1006) and (3004), to be added to the Small Finds Catalogue.

Of the nails, only one can be identified as modern, the remainder are currently believed to be of Romano-British date, although those collected from upper soils have the potential to be of post-Roman date.

Recommendations for further work

A selection of ferrous objects may benefit from X-ray to assist in their interpretation. A selection of the iron objects may be granted Small Finds status. Specialist finds identification advice will be sought to further identify these objects and any relevant parallels will be sought. Photography/Illustration may be carried out on objects with no published parallels. A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Janet Christmas and a finalised version will be presented within the final report.

7.8 Flint - worked

Analysis by Sarah Bates BA MCIfA

A total of 113 flints were recovered from Temple Field, Trenches TEM1, TEM2 and TEM3. The flint has been subject to an initial assessment prior to further analysis work. The assemblage has been quantified and catalogued by context (the full table will be presented as part of the final analysis report). No significant concentrations of flint were identified within individual contexts. A summary of the flint assemblage by type is given here, followed a summary by trench. A more detailed catalogue table of the worked flint by context has been prepared and will be presented in the final analysis report.

Type	Count
multi-platform flake core	2
flake	56
blade-like flake	9
blade	2
bladelet	3
spall	18
chip	1
spurred piece	1
retouched flake	6
utilised blade	2
utilised flake	13
Total	113

Summary of worked flint by type

TEM1

Forty-five flints came from TEM1. An irregular chunky core is present, collected from the subsoil context (1010). The trench assemblage mostly comprises small unmodified flakes with a few blade-like pieces. There are also two utilised blades and eight utilised flakes. One of the utilised blades is the only piece from the trench with clear evidence of core platform preparation. There are no closely dateable pieces, but it is notable that flints from many of the contexts in this trench are recorded as sharp or quite sharp.

TEM2

Thirty-two flints came from TEM2. There is one quite neat small blade-like flake but most of the trench assemblage comprises ordinary flakes most of which are quite irregular. A relatively large flake, retouched around one end, has a slight 'spur' from lower subsoil (2006), and there are three retouched and three utilised flakes. Both quite sharp and edge-damaged flint is present. There are no closely dateable pieces but the material from the trench is fairly consistent in nature.

TEM3

Thirty-six flints came from TEM3. There is a small chunky core, squat and slightly irregular but with some blade type removals made, and there are two blades; all of these are from upper soil layers, or the spoil heap. The other flints are mostly unmodified ordinary flakes, many of them small, with three retouched and two utilised pieces present. An irregular long pointed flake, retouched at one edge, was probably used as a 'backed' knife from subsoil (3005). There are also ten spalls. Both quite sharp and edge-damaged flint is present. The nature of the flint is rather more varied than that from TEM2.

Potential of the flint

The source context of the flint as not yet been examined in detail but most of it was found residually within Roman and later deposits. The condition of some of the flint from TEM1 suggests, however, that it may originally have derived from relatively undisturbed deposits and it is noted that six pieces are from the lower subsoils which might possibly be of pre-Roman date. Most of the flint from TEM2 is residual within Roman dated contexts or is unstratified material from upper soil deposits. It's quite consistent nature might suggest that the flint represents activity of a particular (?later) prehistoric period in the vicinity. The flint from TEM3 is quite mixed in nature and it seems likely that it is residual material.

Further work

The worked flint assemblage will be considered and described by context and where possible prehistoric activity more clearly identified. The occurrence of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery at the site will be also be taken into consideration, along with small quantities of worked flint listed within NHER 9787 recorded as surface finds from this field (which include flakes, a scraper and a double-platform core classed as Neolithic). The overall assemblage will also be discussed in relation to material reported on from earlier phases of excavation at the Roman town and its immediate landscape.

A very small selection of the flint maybe considered for illustration, to include the retouched 'backed-knife' from (3005).

7.9 Glass

A total of 86 small fragments of glass were collected from all four trenches, with a total combined weight of 135.83g (meaning the average piece weighed c. 1.5g). The collection of glass of this small size demonstrates the effectiveness of the 100% context sieving methodology.

The glass has been quantified and catalogued by context, overseen by CRP member Chrissy Sullivan and currently awaits specialist examination. The assemblage includes post-medieval to modern bottle and window glass from cover soil horizons, but also a fair quantity has been provisionally identified as Roman, of which numerous pieces are from Roman dated contexts. The Roman glass includes several examples of what appear to be both bottle pieces and fine vessel pieces dominated by blue and opaque colouring. They include a piece of probable square moulded bottle and an etch decorated piece (SF18067).

Recommendations for further work

An analysis report and finalised catalogue will be commissioned by a professional specialist in Roman glass identification for inclusion within the overall excavation report. The glass will be referenced to a published summary of glass from excavations at Temple Field in EAA30 by J.Price and H.E.M.Cool (recovered from investigations of the west gate, temple and temenos walls) and the temple assemblage will be discussed in terms of its significance to past activities at the site, as well as within a wider framework with regards known Roman

glass assemblages at Caistor (one of a handful of sites nationally where Roman glass furnaces have been discovered).

7.10 Metal Working Debris (MWD)

A total of 35 fragments of metalworking debris associated with iron smelting were collected from 17 contexts across all four trenches, with a combined weight of 454g. A range of slag types associated with bloomery smelting furnace debris were collected, including amorphous slags, furnace bottom pieces, lining pieces and tap-slag.

No features or deposits clearly associated with metal working were uncovered during the excavation, although three pieces of furnace lining fragments were collected from the ashy infill of a possible hearth/oven in TEM1.

No major concentrations of metal working debris were collected on site and this small assemblage is mainly derived from ploughsoil and subsoil horizons. If the activity were taking place within the areas of the trenches, a far greater volume of debris would be expected. However, a few pieces were collected from lower deposits indicating possible Roman dates for metal smelting activity somewhere in the locality and a total of 9 pieces (including furnace lining pieces) were from a subsoil in TEM3 that sealed a Roman ditch but which was cut by later post-settings.

Recommendations for further work

It is recommended that the coarse residues from the environmental floated samples TEM1/01 be closely examined for any further suggestion of metal working associated with this feature. A small assemblage of possible copper working waste has been identified within the small finds assemblage (eight pieces) and will require further analysis to confirm identification and type.

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Barbara Marriage and a finalised version incorporating further stratigraphic analysis and an overall discussion of the metal working debris assemblage in relation to context collections, along with a discussion of evidence for iron working/copper working from localised sites, will be presented within the final report

7.11 Pottery – Prehistoric

Provisional analysis by Sarah Percival

A total of 34 sherds weighing 169g were collected from ten contexts (Table 1). The assemblage comprises a mix of Earlier to Later Iron Age sherds plus a single Bronze Age sherd. All were residual recovered from subsoil, ditch fill or robber trenches and are consequently relatively small and abraded with a mean sherd weight of 5g.

A small undecorated handmade body sherd with grog tempering was recovered from Roman subsoil A. Iron Age sherds in a range of flint tempered and sandy fabrics were recovered from the remainder of the contexts. These include a rim with a rounded external lip from a slack-shouldered everted rim jar recovered from (3007) also part of Roman subsoil A.

This small residual assemblage suggests limited Iron Age occupation, perhaps distributed across the site through the movement of subsoil during Roman and post-Roman agricultural activity.

TEM	Context	Feature date	Feature	Context type	Spot date	Qty	Wt (g)
1	1017	Post-med.		Subsoil	Later Iron Age	1	7
	1020	Post-med.		Subsoil	Earlier Iron Age	3	20
					Not closely datable	2	5
	1022	Post-med.		Subsoil	Later Iron Age	1	8
	1034	Roman	Robber Trench 1033	Fill	Later Iron Age	1	3
	1043	Roman	Robber Trench 1044	Fill	Later Iron Age	1	5
	1046	Pre-Roman building		Lower Subsoil	Iron Age	1	1
3	1049	Roman	Robber Trench 1044	Fill	Later Iron Age	1	6
	3005	Post-med.		Subsoil B	Later Iron Age	6	22
	3007	Roman		Subsoil A	Bronze Age	1	10
					Iron Age	1	3
					Later Iron Age	6	29
	3015	Roman	Ditch 3016	Upper fill	Iron Age	9	50
Total						34	169

Count and weight of prehistoric pottery by context.

Spot date	Fabric Code	Description	Qty	Wt (g)
Bronze Age	GR	Moderate medium sub-angular pale grog	1	10
Earlier Iron Age	FIAM	Pale angular abundant medium flint	1	16
	Qfine	Fine quartz sand	1	1
	QFIMS	Sandy with moderate small angular flint	1	3
Iron Age	QFIMS	Sandy with moderate small angular flint	4	6
	QFLMSOX	Sandy with moderate small angular flint, oxidised surfaces	6	45
	QOX	Fine quartz sand, oxidised surfaces	1	3
later Iron Age	Qfine	Fine quartz sand	1	13
	QFIMS	Sandy with moderate small angular flint	6	24
	QFLMSOX	Sandy with moderate small angular flint, oxidised surfaces	7	27
	Qqu	Sandy with common white rounded quartz	3	16
Not closely datable	Q	Undiagnostic (sandy)	2	5
Total			34	169

Prehistoric pottery by period and fabric type.

Further analysis and Recommendations for further work

This is a small but significant residual assemblage of prehistoric pottery, found in an area where evidence of Iron Age activity has often been presumed but rarely proven through the archaeological record. The Iron Age pottery will be subject to further analysis and discussion in relation to local evidence for pre-Roman activity at Caistor St Edmund and the site itself, where some form of late Iron Age presence has previously been suggested through the discovery of possible votive coinage and the establishment of a Romano-British temple.

A selection of pottery may be photographed/illustrated to provide general illustrative material for the overall report and as reference material for the CRP.

7.12 Pottery – Romano-British

Analysis by Alice Lyons BA MA MCIfA

Introduction

A total of 2267 sherds, weighing 12748g, of Roman pottery was recovered from across all four trenches. The pottery comprises locally produced coarse wares, traded fine table wares and some specialist vessels, largely characteristic of the mid-to-late Romano-British era. This pottery adds a useful data set to the growing corpus of ceramic material recovered from Caistor Roman Town and its hinterland.

Area	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
TEM1	699	3952	31.00
TEM 2	93	475	3.73
TEM 3	1446	8216	64.45
TEM 5	29	105	0.82
Total	2267	12748	100.00

The Temple Site pottery by excavation area

The assemblage represents a minimum of 394 fragmentary vessels. No complete vessels were found and none of the pottery was deliberately placed. Indeed, a significant part of the pottery assemblage was recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits and due to post-depositional disturbance has an average sherd size of only 5.6g. The vast majority of the pottery is severely abraded and no surface residues (such as soot or limescale) were recorded.

Methodology

The Roman pottery was catalogued and summarised following the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Barclay *et al* 2016). The total assemblage was studied, and a full catalogue was prepared in Excel and as an Appendix for the final report. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined based on inclusion types present. Vessel forms (jar, bowl) were recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted.



Plate 15. Examples of larger Roman pottery sherds from TEM2 (as found)

A full report has been submitted by the author to the CRP to contribute to the post-excavation analysis and to be presented in full within the final excavation report. The following information summarises the assemblage as a whole. A more detailed breakdown, analysis and discussion of the dated assemblage by context, ware-type, fabric and form and by trench appears in the full report, along with accompanying tables and a detailed catalogue.

The pottery is summarised here briefly by trench, followed by an overview of the whole pottery assemblage.

TEM 1

A total of 699 pottery fragments, weighing 3952g (31% of the assemblage by weight) which represent a minimum of 334 vessels, was recovered during excavations in TEM 1.

Feature types	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Topsoil & Subsoil	345	2067	52.31
Robber trenches	111	618	15.64
Rubble spread	89	439	11.11
? Oven	53	382	9.67
Layers	49	198	5.01
? Post-holes	29	127	3.21
Spoil heap	16	65	1.64
Linear feature	3	44	1.11
Subsoil (pre-build)	4	12	0.30
Total	699	3952	100.00

TEM 1: Roman pottery by feature type, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Although over half the pottery was recovered from top- and sub-soil deposits, the remainder of the assemblage was associated with features associated with the construction, use and demolition of a substantial villa-type building (RB pot table 2). The pottery is severely abraded with an average sherd weight of 5.65g.

TEM 2

A total of 93 pottery fragments, weighing 475g (c. 4% of the assemblage by weight) which represent a minimum of 9 vessels was recovered during excavations in TEM2. The pottery was not recovered from cut features, rather top- and sub-soil, layers and a metallated surface. The pottery is severely abraded with an average sherd weight of only 5.1g.

Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Topsoil & Subsoil (post-build)	27	110	23.16
Layers	57	280	58.95
Metallated surfaces	9	85	17.89
Total	93	475	100.00

TEM2: Roman pottery by feature type, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Most of the pottery comprises locally produced utilitarian Sandy grey (reduced) and white (oxidised) ware jars, dishes and storage jars, with a small number of flagons also found. This material is supplemented by British (Colchester & Nene Valley colour coats), Gaulish (samian) and Germanic (Trier black-slipped ware) fine table wares in the form of beakers, cups, dishes and plates.

TEM 3

A total of 1446 pottery fragments, weighing 8216g (64% of the assemblage by weight) which represent a minimum of 50 vessels, were recovered during excavations in TEM 3 (RB pot table 6). Although a large part of the trench assemblage was recovered from top- and sub-soil deposits, material was also retrieved from cut features including a ditch, post-holes and a possible pit. The pottery is, however, still severely abraded with an average sherd size of only 5.7g.

Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Topsoils and Subsoils	552	3512	42.75
Ditch fills	453	2496	30.38
Post-holes and post-pads	421	2136	26.00
? Pit	20	72	0.87
Total	1446	8216	100.00

TEM3: Roman pottery by feature type, listed in descending order of weight (%)

A total of ten fabrics were identified (RB pot table 7). Much of the pottery comprises locally produced utilitarian Sandy grey (reduced) and white (oxidised) ware jars and dishes, with a small number of flagons, beakers and mortaria also found. A single Shelly coarse ware jar fragment was also recorded. This material is supplemented by British (Colchester and Nene Valley colour coats, also Hadham and Oxford red wares), Gaulish (samian) and Germanic (Trier black slipped ware) fine table wares in the form of beakers, bowls, cup, dish, also a mortarium.

TEM4

A small number of sherds comprising 29 fragments, weighing 105g, were recovered from two layers within TEM4. This comprises only 0.82% (by weight) of the total assemblage. The pottery is extremely severely abraded with an average sherd weight of only 3.6g.

Most of the pottery comprises locally produced utilitarian Sandy grey (reduced) and white (oxidised) ware jar/bowl fragments. This material is supplemented by British (Nene Valley colour coats and Oxford red wares) also Gaulish (samian) imported fine table wares in the form of beakers, jar/bowl, cup and dish.

Fabric: abbreviation	Vessel	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Sandy grey ware	Jar, jar/bowl	18	79	75.24
Samian	Dish, dish/cup	6	16	15.24
Sandy white ware	Bowl, flagon	3	7	6.67
Oxford red slipped ware	Jar/bowl	1	2	1.90
Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	1	1	0.95
Total		29	105	100.00

TEM4: Roman pottery fabrics and forms, listed in descending order of weight (%)

An Overview of the Roman pottery

A total of eleven broad fabric groups were identified. The various coarsewares (which dominate the assemblage at 75% by weight), imported high status fine wares (2.29% by weight), domestic fine wares (2.4% by weight) and specialist wares limited to mortaria (26.22% by weight) are discussed in full detail within the full report.

Fabric: abbreviation (Published reference)	Vessel	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Sandy grey ware: SGW	Beaker, dish, flagon, jar, lid, storage jar, mortaria	1574	9526	74.73
Sandy oxidised ware: SOW	Bowl, flagon, jar, mortaria	394	2349	18.43
Nene Valley colour coat: LNV CC (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118)	Beaker, flanged dish, jar, jug	101	305	2.39
Samian: SAM (Tomber and Dore 1998, 28-32)	Cup, plate, beaker, cup, dish, plate	89	292	2.29
Colchester colour coat: COL CC (Tomber and Dore 1998, 132)	Beaker	66	95	0.75

Fabric: abbreviation (Published reference)	Vessel	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Hadham red ware: HAD OX (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151)	Bowl	19	58	0.45
Oxfordshire red slip ware: OXF RS (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176)	Jar/bowl	3	47	0.37
Nene Valley oxidised ware: LNV WH (Tomber and Dore 1998, 119)	Mortaria	4	36	0.28
Miscellaneous colour coat: CC	Beaker	11	31	0.24
Trier Black Slipped ware: MOS BS (Tomber and Dore 1998, 60)	Folded beaker	5	5	0.04
South Midland shell tempered ware: ROB SH (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212)	Jar	1	4	0.03
Total		2267	12748	100.00

The Roman Pottery listed by fabric, in descending order of weight (%)

Summary

The opportunity to excavate on the Caistor temple site and the discovery of a new 'villa-class type' building has led to the collection of this significant and potentially very important assemblage of Roman pottery.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that the robbing of the building and subsequent ploughing of the disturbed layers has led to the material being significantly disturbed after its original deposition. This has had the effect of 'mixing' and 'grinding' the pottery so reducing its average sherd size and wearing away many original surfaces and evidence of use (such as soot residues). The assemblage has an average fragment size of only 5.6g, which is extremely small, making close fabric and form identification and also dating, difficult. [Typically, any material under 9g is usually characterized as residual, i.e. not deliberately deposited where it was found].

Analysis of the assemblage has, however, revealed that most of the material comprises local utilitarian Romano-British pottery, supplemented by a small quantity of traded and imported fine table wares. Comparison with the assemblages found at the near-by town of *Venta Icenorum* show it to be very similar to the pottery supplied to this cultural centre, suggesting the two settlements shared a marketplace and also a relatively high standard of living (Atkinson 1932; Lyons *in prep*). Although the pottery is extremely fragmentary, analysis reveals a 'Romanised' way of life with a sophisticated range of both kitchen and table wares present. The connectiveness of the Roman Empire can be glimpsed with pottery arriving from not only local, but regional and international sources. Moreover, where the pottery can be assigned to a specific date, although a small amount of Early Roman pottery is present, most is of mid-to-late Roman in date.

Further analysis and Recommendations for further work

Alongside the coin finds, the pottery will contribute significantly to dating the various phases of activity at the site. A detailed stratigraphic analysis of the distribution of the Roman pottery will be made during final phasing of the archaeological features, with the pottery contributing to phasing of the various deposits and features recorded within all four trenches. No further analysis work is currently required on the physical assemblage, although the author will be given the opportunity to reassess and refine the report and discuss the pottery in relation to the archaeological interpretation of the various episodes of Roman activity identified within each trench.

A selection of pottery may be photographed/illustrated to provide general illustrative material for the overall report and as reference material for the CRP.

7.13 Pottery – Post-Roman

Analysis by Sue Anderson BA MPhil MCIfA FSAScot FSA

Introduction

Sixty-eight sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 334g were collected from the four trenches excavated in Temple Field.

Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in archive. Early Saxon fabric groups have been characterised by major inclusions; later fabrics are based on Jennings (1981). Records were input directly onto an MS Access table, which forms the full archive catalogue.

A full report has been submitted by Sue Anderson to the CRP to contribute to the post-excavation analysis and to be presented in full within the final excavation report. The following information summarises the assemblage as a whole. A breakdown of the dated assemblage by context, fabric, form and trench appears in the full report, along with accompanying tables and a detailed catalogue.

Pottery by period

Table 1 shows the quantities by period.

Period	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Early Anglo-Saxon	1	7		1
Middle Saxon	1	6		1
Early medieval	1	4		1
Medieval	7	106	0.21	7
Late medieval	2	8		2
Post-medieval	13	53	0.05	13
Modern	43	150	0.41	40
Totals	68	334	0.67	65

Table 1. Post-Roman pottery quantities by period

Distribution

Table 2 shows the distribution of post-Roman pottery by trench.

Trench	ESax	MSax	EMed	Med	LMed	PMed	Mod
TEM1	1	1		3		9	23
TEM2						1	8
TEM3			1	4	2	2	7
TEM4						1	5

Table 2. Distribution of post-Roman pottery by trench and feature/context.

The Early and Middle Saxon pottery sherds amount to a single base sherd of Early Saxon medium sandy pottery and a body sherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware. Both came from the topsoil/ploughsoil (1005) of TEM1, with later pottery coming mainly from TEM1 and TEM3. Only a few sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were collected from TEM2 and TEM4.

Discussion

Post-Roman pottery was generally scattered within the topsoil and subsoil of all four trenches. A few sherds of Saxon and medieval date were present, but these, like the later wares recovered, were probably dispersed across the field during manuring activity, rather than representing any substantial activity of these periods on the site.

Further analysis and Recommendations for further work

Currently a relatively small number of sherds appears to represent intrusive material within soil horizons and deposits of Roman date, introduced by either plough disturbance or bioturbation. For example, several sherds of medieval to modern date were collected from a lower subsoil horizon (3007=3008) in TEM2, currently dated as later Roman or possibly early post-Roman both stratigraphically and by the collection of 319 residual Romano-British pottery sherds along with three Roman coins. No post-Roman finds were collected at this same horizon from the same layer in the northern half of the trench and the post-Roman pot may therefore be the result of later disturbance.

A more detailed stratigraphic analysis of the distribution of post-Roman pottery will be made during final phasing of the archaeological features.

No further analysis work is required on the physical assemblage, although the current occurrences of Saxon pottery and known Saxon to medieval activity in the area of the Roman town may be briefly summarised.

7.14 Small Finds (various material types)

A total of 42 individual objects or fragmentary finds (other than coins) have currently been classified as Small Finds and hold a unique 'SF' number. These include a range of material types including carved bone, copper-alloy, glass, iron, lead and shale/jet. Following standard finds processing and packaging by the CRP finds team the finds have been catalogued in detail by CRP member Ian Jackson and are briefly summarised here.

- Within this assemblage 8 fragments of probable copper working waste have been identified which will require separate analysis.
- A single small piece of etch decorated opaque ?Roman vessel glass (SF18003)
- Two worked bone objects include a mid-shaft fragment from a ?Roman bone pin (SF18047) and a partly broken Roman gaming counter (SF18041).
- A complete iron ?carpentry nail (SF18066) in unusually good condition was collected from a layer (1054) directly overlaying the tessellated floor of the Roman ancillary building)
- An L-shaped object of iron was collected from a subsoil (2008) which could be a structural fitting (SF18040).
- Lead objects amount to a fragment of folded sheet (SF18027) and two irregular fragments (SF18011 & SF18012).
- Copper-alloy finds include less identifiable copper-alloy pieces, fragments and sheets pieces as well as part of a possible mount (SF18001), a ?vessel rim (SF18061), wire loop (SF18032), a possible rivet (SF18037), a ?pin (SF18031), four studs and part of a flexible ?decorative chain (SF18063). These finds appear to range in date from Roman to post-medieval and modern periods.

- Six small pieces of worked shale/jet were collected, all of which have been identified as fragments of decorative bangle/armlets of likely Roman date (SF18028, 18034, 18042, 18045, 18046 & 18064).

Distribution

TEM1: The majority of the 14 Small Finds are from the topsoil/ploughsoil and include the bone gaming counter (SF18041), with two shale/jet armlet pieces collected from demolition rich layers associated with the Roman building.

TEM2: The majority of the 18 Small Finds (including 5 pieces of possible copper-working waste) were collected from the lower subsoil and Roman tile rich layers and include four of the shale/jet armlet pieces, the ?Roman bone pin fragment (SF18047) and a ?copper pin (SF18043).

TEM3: Of the 8 Small Finds, half are from topsoil/ploughsoil layers, with a delicate ball-headed ?Roman pin (SF18031) from the subsoil, a decorated stud from the lower subsoil (SF18039) and a copper alloy chain (SF18063) from the upper fill of a large Roman ditch.

TEM4: This 2m by 1m test-pit produced 2 Small Finds from the topsoil/ploughsoil; a fragment of copper-alloy vessel (SF18061) and a flat-headed copper-alloy tack (SF18062).

Roman objects

A selection of the confirmed Roman objects are described below, along with provisional interpretations.

Roman bone gaming counter (SF18041)

Part of a bone gaming counter from TEM1 context (1007) SF 18041. The counter has a diameter of c.21mm and weighs 1.63g. It is incised with four concentric grooves on the upper surface and there is an indentation from the lathe in the centre. The edges are bevelled. Parallels exist in the Colchester Finds Report No. 2 (Crummey 1983; Fig. 94 p. 92). This is described as a Kenyon's Type B counter. Similar examples have also been recorded on the PAS database e.g. LIN-885587. To quote from that particular entry "*They seem to have been produced throughout the Roman period with little variation*". A complete gaming counter of similar form is held by the Norfolk Museum Service and recorded as coming from this site (NWHCM 1929.152.09:A, image available to view on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer Website under record NHER 9787)

Copper Alloy Stud (SF18039)

The hemispherical head of this copper alloy stud SF 18039 from TEM3, context (3007), is decorated with an incised crisscross pattern giving a pinecone-like effect. It has a maximum diameter of c.12mm and weighs 4.59g. It is similar in style to WILT-B13F72 on the PAS database. That entry is identified as Roman but no specific date is given.

Copper Alloy Chain (SF18063)

A length of intact copper alloy chain was recovered from TEM3, the fill (3025) of a possible Roman pit alongside pottery of early to middle 2nd century date. This relatively fine chain weighs c. 2g and comprises six links plus a terminal. The links are constructed from lengths cut from copper alloy sheet that have been formed in to elongated ovals. The ovals



Plate 16. SF 18063: Copper-alloy chain (c. 55mm in length) from TEM3, context 3025.

have been folded in half lengthways until the top and bottom meet. Each link has then been pinched together at the opposite end at right angles to the original fold. The terminal had been formed in two parts. Connected to the last link is a loop of copper alloy wire which is then formed into a socket by means of four twists. Held within this socket is a short pin which terminates in a worn head that would probably originally have been round in shape. This object may form part of a Roman necklace. The method of construction is of the single link in link type c.f Cool Type IIA (Crummy 1983, Fig. 128, 1).

Shale or Jet Armlet Fragments (SF 18028, 18034, 18042, 18045, 18046, & 18064)

A total of six small fragments from shale/jet armlets were recovered during the course of the excavation assisted by 100% sieving methods, four from TEM2 and two from TEM1. Although the pieces are currently suggested to be primarily of worked shale, their exact geological origin remains unconfirmed pending further specialist advice, with shale, jet, torbanite, cannel coal, and detrital coals also remaining as possible material types used for black jewellery in the Roman period. It should be noted that in 1984 a fragment of Kimmeridge shale armlet was found during fieldwalking here, reported in: *Unpublished Document: Gurney, D. 1984. Report on fieldwalking, Caistor St Edmund, Norfolk, March 11th 1984.*

The largest fragment SF18064 (Plate 17) came from TEM1 robber trench fill context (1041). It weighs just 1.26g and is decorated with incised v-shaped notches on the outer surface. The internal diameter of the armlet is c.60mm which is of a similar size to decorated shale and jet armlets published in the Colchester Finds Report No.2 described as Hagen 1937 Type B20. (Crummy 1983; Fig 38, p.37). Three other pieces can be roughly estimated to be from armlets of c. 80mm diameter.

All four pieces from TEM2 were collected from lower subsoil and tile debris layers of probable 3rd to 4th century AD date and of the two from TEM1, one was from a flint rubble rich layer and the other from a tile dump, both deposits also thought to be of 3rd to 4th century AD date. Given their context and form, all these shale/jet armlets are all highly likely to be Roman in date.

The recovery of even fragmentary evidence for several shale/jet armlets at the site is particularly intriguing and worthy of further comment. A study of the Roman collection of jet in the Yorkshire Museum by Lindsay Allason-Jones (Roman Jet in the Yorkshire Museum, 1996) concludes that the use of jet for jewellery in the Roman world was not fashionable until the 3rd century. The production of such jewellery including hairpins, beads, finger-rings and armlets may lie in the possible religious significance of jet and could imply the emergence of an associated cult. The majority of jet jewellery finds from excavation are from female graves and there is currently a presumption that such material may have had special significance for women. It is also possible that this material may have been associated with the cult of Bacchus or with Christianity but it may equally have been introduced by one of the other Eastern mystery cults that became popular in the 3rd century AD, although jets popularity may also be a quirk of fashion.



Plate 17. SF 18064: Shale/jet armlet frag. from TEM1 context (1041), as found.

Recommendations for further work

A catalogue of the small finds has been prepared by CRP member Ian Jackson, with provisional identification of each object. A finalised and detailed Small Finds catalogue will be presented within the final report.

Several small finds may benefit from X-Ray to assist in their interpretation. Further advice will be sought from specialists experienced in finds identification, including Dr Natasha Harlow (Iron Age and Roman personal objects) and Alice Lyons (Roman artefacts).

A selection of the more significant small finds will be photographed/illustrated for inclusion in the final report and archive, particularly those with no published parallels,

A discussion of the small finds assemblage will be produced, both in relation to any interpretations of past activity at the temple site and within the wider context of Roman material collected from the Roman town and its environs. The recovery of several fragments of shale/jet armlets is certainly worthy of further research and discussion. A wider body of reference material will be consulted, as will academic specialist familiar with this material which has the potential to represent votive activity at the site.

A review of known finds previously recorded from the field representing 'personal objects' collected through excavation, metal detection and field survey (which includes material recovered by Mottram at the temple; brooch pieces, a speculum mirror, enamelled brooches, tweezers and a copper-alloy penannular ring suggested to be a rare form of bracelet) will also be undertaken.

7.15 Shell

A total of 2,256 oyster shell remains were recovered weighing a total of 15,898 grams. A further 27 fragments of non-oyster shells (cockle/mussel/winkle/land snail) weighing 42.5 grams were recovered. It should be noted that the number of remains includes a large percentage of fragmentary pieces and does not equate to complete shells.

Although shell was collected from ploughsoil and subsoils, deeper deposits and features dating to the Roman period also yielded oyster shell, indicating consumption waste.

A small cluster of nine oyster shells may have been associated with the votive deposition of a coin in TEM2 (RF: 2009)

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Margaret Hood and a finalised version incorporating further stratigraphic analysis and a discussion of the shell assemblage in relation to context collections, along with a discussion of evidence for consumption trends from localised excavations at the Roman town will be presented within the final report.

7.16 Tesserae (ceramic and stone)

Methodology

All loose tesserae found within the Trenches were collected by context as baulk finds. After washing and drying the individual tesserae were sorted into groups according to the fabric, colour and shape. An initial criteria was created to quantify and catalogue each individual tesserae by fabric-type, form and colour.

Large ceramic tesserae

A total of 2341 large ceramic tesserae were recovered during the excavations, with a combined weight of c. 12.730 kg. Some ceramic tesserae were clearly made from tegula tiles and occasional pieces made from imbrex were also present. In shape they are commonly sub-rectangular cuboid with varying maximum dimensions of around 25mm to 35mm. These have the same form as tesserae present within the preserved tessellated floor (1035) discovered in TEM1, currently suggested to date from c. mid- 2nd century to the mid-3rd century AD.



Chalk (as found)



Stone



Ceramic

Plate 18. Example tesserae types

TEM1: A total of 1791 large ceramic tesserae were collected, weighing 3193.83g

TEM2: A total of 12 large ceramic tesserae were collected, weighing 247g

TEM3: A total of 533 large ceramic tesserae were collected, weighing 9220.46g

TEM4: A total of 5 large ceramic tesserae were collected, weighing 69g



Plate 19. In situ ceramic tesserae floor (1035) in TEM1. Looking West.
[Scales on floor: 0.5m & 1x0.2m]

Stone and small ceramic tesserae

These tesserae are of a smaller more cuboid like form than those classified above. All of the individual pieces were carefully cleaned, taking special care with those made from softer chalk. Nine natural variations in colour and tone were recorded with fabrics mainly of chalk but also including limestone and sandstone. Colours range mainly from white (soft and hard chalk) to pinkish/red (ceramic) to buff/grey (sandstone) to grey/black (limestone or possibly hard slate). Overall, these types display a similar type and range to those recorded by Mottram from excavations at the Temple in 1957, where remnants of a chalk mosaic floor

were uncovered and unstratified limestone and sandstone tesserae were also recovered. The chalk is available locally while other stone-types must have been either scavenged from glacial erratics or specially imported to provide the necessary raw materials.

TEM1: A total of 103 small tesserae were collected, weighing 336.29g

TEM2: A total of 37 small tesserae were collected, weighing 89.6g

TEM3: A total of 51 small tesserae were collected, weighing 142.11g

TEM4: A total of 19 small tesserae were collected, weighing 55.17g

The quantity of each fabric type breaks down as:

Fabric	Colour	Count	Fabric Totals
Limestone/?slate	<i>Black</i>	3	3
Sandstone	<i>Buff</i>	39	55
	<i>Buff/grey</i>	16	
Ceramic	<i>Buff/pink</i>	4	23
	<i>Pale pink</i>	1	
	<i>Pink</i>	6	
	<i>Pink/red</i>	5	
	<i>Red</i>	7	
Chalk	<i>White</i>	127	129
	<i>White/buff</i>	2	
Total Count		210	

Small tesserae fabric types

Recommendations for further work

A finalised geological assessment of the stone material will be undertaken, seeking professional advice. A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Chrissy Sullivan and a finalised version incorporating further stratigraphic analysis and a discussion of the assemblage in relation to Mottram's excavated material will be made. Further stratigraphic analysis may assist in a more detailed understanding of former flooring within the temple and ancillary building, recognised through the loose tesserae assemblage.

In addition, the tessellated floor tile assemblage will be discussed in a regional context, with reference to the Temple and ancillary building fabrics and within a wider discussion of their significance regarding the currently small data set of known mosaic floors previously discovered at Venta Icenorum and the county of Norfolk. A preliminary search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record has returned a total of 28 sites where tessellated floors or mosaic are mentioned, of which only a very small number refer to excavated sites with confirmed in situ evidence. The majority of the records refer to fen edge sites in the west of Norfolk, with only 6 to the east and north of the county (which include Venta Icenorum and the Saxon shore-fort at Caistor-on-Sea).

7.17 Wall plaster

Methodology

A total of 204 recovered plaster fragments were carefully dry-cleaned of adhering soil and then allowed to dry thoroughly with the help of silica. The assemblage was then examined in detail and sorted into the range of similar painted colours and designs on each fragment. A dedicated group of the CRP Finds Processing team then attempted to match and refit pieces that shared any common designs or pigmentation.

The material was collected from a total of 9 contexts, but by far the majority (180 fragments) came from a single context (1026) in the 'priest's house', which directly overlaid the tessellated floor. It became clear that although similar colours were present it proved impossible to refit more than two or three pieces. Shared designs or pigments were stored

together in a bed of sand, to enable levelling during selective photographic recording. The sand was then replaced by a bed of foam, boxed and with silica included.

Plaster fabric

The majority of the stucco fragments showed that they had been painted on to the same or similar type of mortar. This was of an off-white fine-grained material. Another pinkish hued fabric was found but in only for five examples of the total number recovered; these pieces exclusively had red, pink or orange pigments painted on them.

Pigments

The fragments of recovered plaster show that the fresco work within the building of TEM1 had a varied polychrome design, although the range of fairly small and worn individual fragments recovered make it difficult to come to any firm conclusion as to how the original fresco looked. Pigments present on pieces collected from TEM2 and TEM3 were all of a deep red colour and were in a better condition from the painted plaster recovered from 1026. Currently no pieces have been identified that exhibit more than only layer of paintwork, which could indicate a single phase of decoration.

The colours recovered from TEM1, context (1026), directly above the floor, range from white/cream through the primary colours to varied shades of brown. The decorated plasterwork has a palette of 11 individual colours/tones. Two conjoining fragments show a small bird, although the head is missing, it is depicted within a frame of arches, curves and linear features. Another fragment shows a separate much faded bird in monochrome. Birds are well recorded inclusions in friezes from the Romano-British Period, where flora and fauna are ubiquitous, with birds depicted sometimes perched on candelabra, within plant tendrils or as independent motifs. Examples of birds from excavated site include doves, peacocks, possible eagles and cockatoos. The small bird from TEM1 bears some similarities to birds depicted on plaster at Verulamium (St Albans) which depict doves (Davey & Ling 160-177, 1982) and perhaps the early 4th century wall-decoration within the Principia at York, now preserved within York Minster.



Plate 20. Painted plaster (1026): Bird Motif.

Painted wall plaster has been identified within various Romano-British buildings, including civilian dwellings, townhouses, shops, public buildings, temples and villas. They can be considered as a relatively expensive amenity, usually regarded as a status symbol. Within large villas the majority of rooms were painted, a trend that continued into the 4th century. Those rooms that were more frequently seen by visitors were generally more elaborately painted, while service rooms may have had plain or bared walls.

The presence of such detail from the painted plaster of TEM1 and the sheer range of pigments, points to the room having been decorated to a high quality consistent with a building with a high-status function, such as a villa.

Recommendations for further work

A draft initial assessment report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Chrissy Sullivan and a finalised report incorporating further stratigraphic details, interpretation and any further analysis work will be compiled for inclusion in the final excavation report. This will include reference to the thirty painted wall plaster pieces recovered from the temple excavations by Mottram; the published account in EAA30 reports that 24 pieces of these were painted in red tones, three in brownish-yellow and two in black which have been used to suggest that the predominant colour was red, perhaps surrounded by polychrome borders. A piece with an unidentifiable motif is also mentioned.

A selection of pieces may be subject to further photographic, hand-drawn and computer aided illustration. Any further examination of the pigments and designs would need to be expertly undergone using macro photography, magnification using polarising light methods, X-radiography and thin section analysis techniques. Chemical analysis of the pigmentation is also possible through sampling and scientific analysis, such as X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry. External advice and potential analysis are yet to be secured but may include the resources of Nottingham University. A review of the material held by the Norfolk Museums Service will be undertaken to ascertain if any of the painted plaster from Mottram's 1957 excavations may be held in archive. It may be possible to include such material in this study if the material survives in storage.

A review of the designs and colouring patterns will be made for stylistic parallels, although styles and patterns must be deduced with caution within this fragmentary assemblage, which was collected only as a sample from the total *in situ* context. Davey & Ling's classifications and style trends for British wall patterns will be consulted (*Wall-painting in Roman Britain. Davey, N & Ling, R. 1982 Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd.*) to allow for some discussion on possible design elements for expected zones of decoration i.e. the dado, main zone and frieze. This may assist in general dating by trend but the main dating will rely on the stratigraphic data of the site (which currently suggests 2nd to early 4th century date ranges), unless charcoal or other organic elements with the potential for Radiocarbon dating can be identified within the make-up of the plaster.

Parallels for other painted wall plaster of similar form/date within the region will be researched in consultation Dr Will Bowden and a network of Romano-British specialists. The discovery here will be discussed within its implications for interpretation of the building and in the context of the regional significance of such a discovery where only a limited number of Roman sites have produced painted plaster.

7.18 Environmental samples: the charred plant macrofossils and other remains

By Val Fryer BA MCIfA, Environmental Archaeologist

Introduction and methodology

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from contexts noted within two of the three excavation trenches (TEM1 and TEM3), with a total of eight being submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover, with the flots being collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in a full catalogue (to be included within the final report). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, other plant macrofossils are very scarce. A single indeterminate cereal grain is present within the fill of possible oven [1025] (TEM1: sample <1>).

Chaff elements, including spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases, oat (*Avena* sp.) awn fragments and a detached cereal sprout are noted at a low density within the TEM3 assemblages along with two seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.).

Fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell are noted within all three of the TEM1 assemblages and from TEM3 post-hole [3018] (sample <1>). Other plant macrofossils are equally scarce, but do include a single small piece of heather (*Ericaceae*) stem and indeterminate inflorescence and tuber fragments (both from TEM3: sample <1>).

Black porous and tarry residues are present throughout. All are distinctly hard and brittle, and it is thought most likely that they are by-products of the combustion of coal, small pieces of which are also recorded. Small pieces of bone are present throughout, with many of those from the TEM3 contexts showing clear evidence for scorching or burning. It is noted that the bone within the assemblage from TEM3 sample <4> (ditch [3026]) is very heavily abraded, possibly suggesting that it had been exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to inclusion within the ditch fill. Fragments of mortar/plaster are also relatively common, with a single piece from TEM 3 sample <5> (ditch/gully [3030]) retaining faint traces of grey and red pigment. Other remains are very scarce.

A collection of miscellaneous organic objects were noted during finds processing and later submitted to the author for inclusion within this report. TEM3 context (3015) produced five olive stones (*Olea europaea*) from the upper fill of the Roman ditch [3016]. All were heavily coated with small grits and silt, but none were charred. The surface tissue of the specimens was delicate, and the interior of the stones comprised a white/cream pithy material. These remains are of unknown date, but it is thought very unlikely that they are contemporary with the nearby Roman structure. A flat object noted within the finds from TEM3 context (3008) was identified as a fragment of highly compacted fine silt with indeterminate organic impressions on its surface. All of these objects have been retained with the plant macrofossil assemblages as part of the site archive.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the recovered assemblages are all very small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and sparse, with plant remains being very scarce indeed. Although this may, at first, appear to be disappointing, it is suggested that this paucity of material may be a direct result of the importance of the structure recorded within TEM1. A building with a tessellated floor and painted plaster on the walls was obviously of sufficient status to be kept scrupulously clean, with any refuse being disposed well away from the focus of occupation/use. The few remains which are recorded may be derived from scattered hearth waste (including chaff used as tinder/fuel and bone fragments), although this interpretation is tenuous at best. It is thought most likely much of the coal and black porous/tarry residues are derived from the spreading of night soil on the land during the later medieval and Post-medieval periods, as similar material has been noted within all of the Caistor assemblages studied to date.

As these assemblages are so sparse, no further analysis of the remains will be required. However, a summary of the information in this assessment should be included within any synthesis of data from the project.

A full catalogue of the macrofossil record by identified species/other remains per sample will be presented within the final excavation report.

8.0 General Potential & Brief Summary of the Results

Overall, the results from the excavation are very positive, with finds assemblages of various material types and historic periods, with a focus on the Romano-British period. Residual finds of prehistoric date area also of significance, in particular the recovery of Iron Age pottery which appears to confirm an earlier phase of activity prior to the establishment of the Roman-British temple.

The overall finds assemblage and artefact distribution must be examined with due diligence. The opportunity to study an excavated finds assemblage from a Roman religious site in the region is a rare one and this study has the potential to highlight not only activity relating to the enigmatic ancillary building but possibly also activity related to religious or other activities within the temple complex.

The contextual and stratigraphic record, along with the welcome addition of Ground Penetrating Radar data, has provided new evidence based on the physical remains of the large ancillary building for the first time. Analysis has the potential to throw some light on the possible construction date, form and function of the high status 'villa-like' building as well as an understanding of its abandonment and quarrying phases.

The discovery of a large Roman ditch which appears to form part of an enclosure which dates from the latter phase of the building's lifespan will assist in understanding the later use of the site, with a series of post-settings indicating a timber structure of possible late Roman date.

The investigation for evidence of an eastern monumental gateway mirroring that on the western side of the complex appears to rule out such a structure. However, the results have instead provided some very interesting data that requires further consideration with regard to the possible form of a smaller eastern gate and the possible date of construction/demolition for the *temenos* masonry. The discovery of Roman metal surfaces which appear to pre-date walling here are particularly noteworthy and provide new possibilities for envisaging a pre-*temenos* phase for the temple complex.

9.0 Post-excavation Analysis and Publication programme

The finds processing and cataloguing is complete with post-excavation analysis and further finds analysis work currently ongoing. Following analysis of the stratigraphic and artefactual data, alongside the results of environmental analysis, a final excavation report will be compiled and produced alongside CRP members by Giles Emery BA MCIfA T/A Norvic Archaeology which discusses the results in detail.

A final programme of analysis work, digitised illustrations, reporting and archiving will be carried out following the production of this interim assessment report. Additional detail of some of the post-excavation phases of work to be carried out is given below.

9.1 Contextual and Stratigraphic Analysis

The data will be analysed with the aid of a comprehensive site matrix and a context database. Individual contexts will be grouped and appropriate group text produced. This will detail the nature of the features and deposits and outline the interpretation of each group. A group matrix may also be constructed, if necessary, to define any significant sub-periods of activity. The group text will form the basis for sub-period and period texts. All artefactual and environmental data will be synthesised with the contextual information and a detailed descriptive text produced for inclusion in the Final Report. A finalised Context Summary table will also be produced as part of the final archive.

Background research, commensurate with the results of the fieldwork, will be undertaken to place the results of the work within their local, regional and national archaeological context. This information will form part of the final report. The study may include the following sources of information as appropriate to the objectives of the research: Historic Environment Records; Historical maps; other relevant published documentary sources on previous archaeological work, aerial photographic resources and current interpretations of known cropmarks in close proximity to the site.

9.2 Artefactual Analysis

Specialist reporting and detailed catalogues/databases suitable for archive purposes will be produced and presented in full within the Final Report for each assemblage (with further work carried out as previously defined). The assemblages will be discussed in detail within the stratigraphic framework of the site in order to further refine the archaeological interpretation of the recorded features.

Following detailed analysis any artefacts which do not have easily accessible, published parallels will be photographed and illustrated for inclusion in the final report.

9.3 Final Report

The Final Report will present detailed contextual information, fully integrated with the artefactual and environmental evidence and referenced to previous archaeological work at the Roman town and its immediate landscape. All specialist reports will be presented in full. Artefactual and environmental data will be included as tabular appendices. This report will also present an interpretive analysis of the results from which any future synthesis works may be produced.

The following illustrations will be included in the Final Report:

- Selected cartographic figures, if required, to more clearly illustrate the known history of the site.
- Location Plan of the site, including any relevant local HER entries.
- General site and individual trench plans showing all excavated features revealed during the Excavation combined with the results of previous work at the site by Mottram in 1957.
- Phased plans, where required, to more clearly illustrate different phases of activity within each trench.
- All appropriate digitised sections/masonry elevations to demonstrate the character of features within each trench.
- Illustration and photographic records of selected finds.
- Selected images from the geophysical survey work: Lidar, magnetometry, resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar.
- A selected range of plates including general shots of the excavation and illustrative images of particularly significant features or finds.
- A selected range of plates to form a gallery of shots of the excavation process and the many volunteers who took part in the project.

9.4 Publication Summary

The results of the work will be presented as a concise summary article for inclusion in the *Journal of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society*. A short article or summary will also be presented to the academic peer reviewed journal *Britannia – the journal of Romano-British & Kindred Studies - The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, Cambridge University Press*, compiled by Dr Will Bowden. Other suitable publication and dissemination routes may also be considered for particular elements of the work where appropriate.

9.5 Archive Deposition

Excavated material currently remains in the ownership of the owner and tenant of High Ash Farm, although it is envisaged that they will formally gift appropriate material to the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service who hold much of the excavated material from 20th-century excavations at the Roman town. A selection of baulk finds may be retained by the CRP as reference and outreach material. A paper copy of the archive will be deposited alongside the excavated materials. A copy of the final report will be sent to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record to form part of their permanent archive. The report will also be archived digitally through OASIS, the online grey literature archive maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

9.6 Resources and Programming

The post-excavation programme is currently ongoing and further work will follow the various paths detailed within this document. It is estimated that a draft copy of the Final Report will be compiled in December 2020, for completion in March 2020. A .pdfa copy of the report on CD and hard copy will be supplied to both Historic England the Historic Environment Service. A copy will also be submitted to the landowner at this time.

The post-excavation programme will be managed by both Giles Emery BA MCIfA T/A Norvic Archaeology and Mike Pinner (CRP Project Manager) assisted by CRP members Rhiane Keeley (CRP Site Director), Ian Jackson (Small Finds/Post-ex Reporting) and Chrissy Sullivan (Finds Management). Dr Will Bowden (Associate Professor in Roman Archaeology, University of Nottingham) will provide editorial support and advice.

10.0 Acknowledgements

The project is immensely grateful to Chris and Daniel Skinner and their tenants for providing access to the site.

A huge thank you to the numerous CRP members both for their efforts on site but also for their dedication to the post-excavation finds processing, cataloguing and reporting. The enthusiasm of each individual volunteer is very much appreciated, as is the ever-growing range of skills and experience each person brings to the group.

The project is grateful to Dr Will Bowden for his close support throughout the project. Thanks are also due to Dr Dave Bescoby and Dr Tim Dennis for geophysics/GPR work and to David Gurney and Dr Will Fletcher for their support and advice.

Darren Barnes of Kingdom Landscapes supplied and operated the mechanical digger both during the initial topsoil reduction and backfilling.

Giles Emery (Norvic Archaeology) and Andy Barnett provided professional archaeological oversight and support. Finds advice and external analysis reporting was provided by Alice Lyons (Pottery/Ceramics), Sarah Percival (Prehistoric Pottery), Sue Anderson (Post-Roman pottery), Val Fryer (Environmental Samples), Andy Barnett (Coinage), Paul Clarkson (Animal Bone) and Dr Natasha Harlow



Plate 21. TEM1: CRP Project Manager Mike Pinner & CRP Supervisor Tony Morter on the last day of excavation. (looking east)

(Roman objects). Historic Environment Record information was kindly supplied by Heather Hamilton.

Photographic plates are by Giles Emery and Ian Jackson unless otherwise stated. Digitised trench figures 6 to 10 were produced by Giles Emery, who also compiled the report.

This project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, without whose support this work would not have been possible.



Plate 22. UEA Student Glen Hands was the first to uncover part of the in situ tessellated floor



Plate 23. The joys of recording work



Plate 24. TEM1 during one of the popular open days

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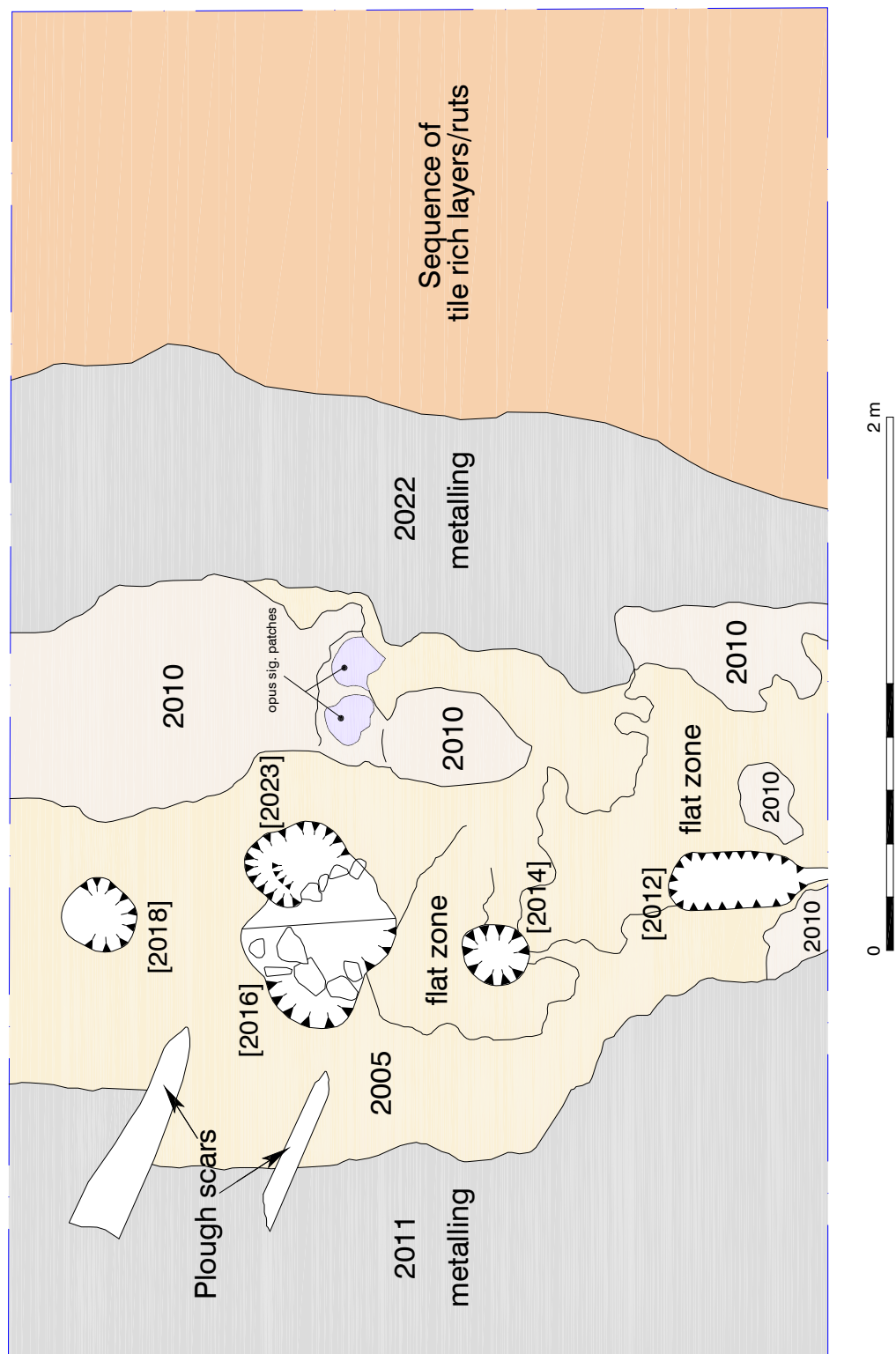


Figure 8. TEM2: DRAFT Simplified plan. Scale 1:25

